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GDR PRESS ATTACHE ON WEST'S STAND AT MBFR TALKS

LD132150 Moscow TASS in English 2111 GMT 13 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Vienna, March 13, TASS--TASS correspondent Igor Maslov writes:

The 231st plenary meeting of the parties to the negotiations on mutual reduction of troops and armaments in central Europe was held at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna today. It was chaired by the head of the Soviet delegation Ambassador N.K. Tarasov.

As was stated by a representative of the Western side at a meeting with journalists, speaking at the meeting had been the head of the delegation of the FRG E. Jung. As is clear from his pronouncements, the West German diplomat failed to produce an answer to the latest constructive proposals of socialist countries. He tried to accuse them of their allegedly going away from consideration of the question of the so-called accompanying measures proposed by Western countries in December last year.

In this connection, the press attache of the GDR's delegation has told journalists: From the very beginning of the negotiations socialist countries advanced on the issue a clear cut and precise conception, persistently explaining it to the Western side. They hold that the above-mentioned "measures" should be in close connection with reduction of troops and armaments and should not exceed the framework of the agreed-upon area of reductions in central Europe.

The course of the Vienna negotiations shows that Western countries display an unconstructive approach to our conception and advance measures which have not direct and full connection with reductions already proposed. In other words, they cannot be a subject of discussion at the Vienna negotiations where the main item discussed is reduction of troops and armaments in central Europe and associated measures.

It becomes obvious that Western countries submit to us overstated and unjustified demands concerning their accompanying measures. All this is subordinated to the NATO's desire to have unilateral advantages to itself. The Western proposal is contrary to the agreed-upon principle of the Vienna negotiations, the principle of undiminished security of any of the parties.

SOVIET, U.S. DELEGATES TO CHEMICAL TALKS MEET

LD141200 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 14, TASS--The delegations of the USSR and the USA held a meeting today to continue bilateral talks on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABIE'

LD161726 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

["International Observers' Roundtable" program with Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, all-Union radio commentator; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shislin, international affairs journalist; and Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer]

[Text] [Levin] Good morning, respected comrades and radio listeners. There have been many events in international life this week. First of all we would like to point out those events which have occurred in the countries of the socialist community.

Relations With Socialist States

In Hungary, preparations for the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party congress are being completed. Party conferences have already been held and delegates for the congress have been elected. On 24 March the congress will start its work. This week in Budapest and Prague long-term programs for development, specialization and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic and between the Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic were signed. Earlier, incidentlly, similar programs were signed with Bulgaria and the GDR. Now one can already say that the working out of these long-term programs is almost finished.

[Shishlin] I would have put it this way: The socialist countries began measuring up to the eighties in the seventies, when CEMA approved five long-term target programs of cooperation, which embrace practically all the key industries for material production.

These are such programs as the those for energy, fuel and raw materials, machine building, production of industrial consumer goods, production of agricultural products and finally transportation.

In essence, the adoption of these five long-term target programs denotes new heights in development of socialist economic integration. But I would like to stress that in measuring up to the eighties, and this is precisely demonstrated by the preparations for the 12th MSZMP Congress, communists in power in the socialist countries believe that we are entering a complex period in economic development, insofar as at present it is quite obvious that certain difficulties in obtaining sources of energy and some types of raw materials will be overcome only gradually and that to solve this problem through some kind of one-time effort will not be possible.

[Bovin] On top of that, all in all some influence is being felt from those crises occurring in the West.

[Shishlin] Undoubtedly, because the socialist world--and we have mentioned this more than once--is not protected from the influence of the world economic situation and the rise in oil prices...[interrupted by Bovin]

[Bovin] Yes.

[Shishlin] Other sources of energy pose problems for the socialist countries.

This is what is important: The socialist countries through planning and domestic policy are concentrating their efforts in two directions. First of all, national resources are included more fully in economic turnover and programs are adopted for economical use of energy and raw materials. Second, there is the development and deepening of links with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries; this second direction includes, in general, improving the whole economic mechanism linking the socialist countries together.

It is precisely the deepening of socialist economic integration that appears as the main direction which the socialist countries are planning to pursue in solving those major creative problems which they are setting for themselves in their socialist and communist plans.

[Levin] At the same time, one must point out that political links between the fraternal parties, and between the socialist states are also deepening.

It was in fact this week that the SED Central Committee Politburo, the GDR Council of Ministers, as well as the PZPR Central Committee Politburo, approved the results of talks between Edward Gierek, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

I would like to point out that the decision of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo notes that the talks between the leaders of the two fraternal parties once again confirmed the aspirations of the two countries to fight for a continuation of the process of detente, disarmament, the arms race and insuring of peace between peoples. A similar evaluation is given in the decision of the SED Central Committee Politburo and the GDR Council of Ministers.

[Shishlin] What is important here is that the socialist countries, under the conditions of the current breakdown in international relations, are not shutting the door on constructive dialog with the West while they are resisting imperialist pressure the socialist countries see opportunities to preserve the process of detente and, moreover, to speed it up. In this sense, unity of approach by the socialist countries to detente matters is undoubtedly of no small value in international politics.

Chinese Foreign, Domestic Policies

[Levin] Actually, as regards the complexities and problems of international life, we should pay particular attention to the subversive activity of the Beijing leaders. They are undertaking truly feverish efforts to make those complex phenomena which have recently appeared in international politics even more complex. Their interest is, as before, anti-Sovietism.

At the moment, the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua to a number of ASEAN countires is in progress. This visit started in the Philippines, where Huang Hua already came out with sharp anti-Soviet tirades. He is clearly trying to use his talks with Philippine leaders to enlist the Philippines in an anti-Soviet program.

[Shishlin] There are also certain nuances in China's foreign policy. There is in any case a mixture of accents in the theses of official Beijing. In particular, it was not long ago that Beijing's number one thesis was the inevitability of war. Now, Deng Xiaoping and other Beijing leaders are saying that China needs peace.

If there is no peace they reckon that the entire four modernizations plan will be upset, but at the same time they are calling upon all other countries, as before, to oppose, as they put it, Soviet hegemonism. They would like to see the world deeply hostile to the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries.

[Levin] Here one can refer, as an example, to an article which Deng Xiaoping wrote for the 1980 Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook, which was reprinted in NEWSDAY, entitled: "How I See the Future China."

Deng Xiaoping sees the future as follows: China will be economically and militarily powerful and play a vitally important role in curbing hegemonism. The same anti-Soviet line is being reaffirmed and strengthened. It is in this context that one should probably view the visit to Islamabad, Pakistan, which a high-ranking Chinese military delegation has just started. It is headed by Deputy Defense Minister Xiao Ke and will stay 6 days in Pakistan, obviously to conduct talks and to agree on supplies of Chinese arms to the Pakistanis for the support of counterrevolutionary bands from Afghanistan which have made themselves a nest in Pakistan.

[Shishlin] Beijing's decision to break off Chinese-Vietnamese talks is in the same context.

[Bovin] I would like to point out that this foreign policy activity by China to some extend contradicts those great difficulties which the development of Chinese society is facing. In essence, the matter there revolves around the fact, as you know, comrades, that China is trying to extricate itself from the quagmire into which it has sunk as a result of the Cultural Revolution; in fact, the last plenum, the Fifth CCP Central Committee Plenum, was a step in that direction. However, precisely the decisions of that plenum and the subsequent commentaries stress the complexity and difficulty of the problems facing them at present.

This plenum concentrated its attention on internal party problems. There is a very interesting editorial in the last issue of the magazine HONGQI on the state of the party. Here I would like to draw attention to one thesis from this article in HONGQI, where it says that in accordance with the spirit of the Fifth Central Committee Plenum reeducation of party members has to be carried out. Why reeducation? Because, as the article says, until now there has been both hidden and overt factional conflict, anarchism, extreme individualism, liberalism and other nonproletarian ideological phenomena in the party. The article further says that in general, out of 38 million party members, more than half joined during the Great Cultural Revolution, many for various selfish reasons. Many joined the party by devious means, getting around clauses of the Constitution. As a result, the following debate is in progress: At present within the ranks of the party the following problems exist, and I will enumerate them: There are members in the party who as yet do not understand the basics of theory or the essence of the party, or who do not have party views or do not manifest party-mindedness, who cling to factionalism.

Some of them have absolutely no idea of order, fail to carry out party decisions and argue over the jobs that the party assigns them. Some are only out for their own interests and use their professional positions and privileges in open pursuit of fame and the advantages of power. Finally, some have gone so far as to become morally lax and violate law and discipline. That is the picture--and I think it's a rather striking one--of the state of affairs in the party given by HONGQI. This is one indication of the enormous difficulties the Chinese leadership and society are now encountering. I repeat that if they want to overcome those difficulties then the line they are taking in foreign policy is inconsistent with that desire and clashes with the tasks that the Chinese are setting themselves at home.

I think that sooner or later that contradiction will either lead to serious trouble or force them to reconsider rather substantial aspects of their foreign policy.

Rhodesian Developments

[Levin] Now we'll move on to another problem that has loomed large among international events of the week, the problem of the reconstruction--or rather the establishment--of the new African state of Zimbabwe. We needn't remind listeners in detail of what happened at the elections in which the Patriotic Front won a brilliant, a truly brilliant, victory, gaining 77 of 80 seats. It is very indicative that the clique of the traitor Muzorewa only just got enough votes to scrape into parliament with three seats. This week the difficult process of forming a new government was completed. It comprises representatives of the Zimbabwe African National Union, (ZANU), the Zimbabwe African People's Union, ZAPU, and also two representatives of the white minority. As has already been reported, the posts of prime minister and defense minister have been assumed by Robert Mugabe. His close associate Simon Muzenda, becomes deputy prime minister and foreign minister; while the very important job of minister of home affairs goes to Joshua Nkomo. The country is clearly taking up new positions; and what sort of start it is making, from what initial boundary lines, as it were, independent Zimbabwe, is beginning its existence...[interrupted by Bovin]

[Bovin] Well, of course, the boundaries are pretty complicated because there have been 7 years of civil war, with great devastation on the purely material plane. But I think that the main difficulty is in settling relations between the native population and the white community. The mutual hatred and distrust that has built up will not be easy to defuse. But I must say that precisely in this respect Mugabe's position is in my view a fairly flexible and reasonable one. He is trying to influence the situation in the country and affect public opinion; of course, the white population is frankly frightened at present. It's frightened, fearing rather harsh treatment from the new government. So Mugabe is trying to dispel those fears. In particular, the fact that there are two whites in the government shows that they're trying to establish interracial cooperation. Well, of course here it's not just a question of psychology, because the main sectors of the economy, vast land holdings and practically the entire state apparatus are in the hands of the whites. All that will have to be changed. Changes are inevitable; even if all goes well they will certainly not be painless. The fate of many thousands of people and huge amounts of capital is at stake. The government will have to tackle all this. But it's interesting that Mugabe himself as you know considers himself a Marxist-Leninist. He has said that he bases his political philosophy on certain principles of Marxism-Leninism and he intends to establish socialism in Zimbabwe. Here's a sentence taken from his latest interview: We are socialists. We will support socialist principles, but our principles must take into account the real situation in our country, our history and traditions and the special circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Then he goes on to say that Zimbabwe is a capitalist country; that can't be changed all at once, and so it's necessary to proceed gradually, in stages, and so on. So he is constantly stressing this element of gradualness, to avoid scaring the geese, as it were.

[Shishlin] Well of course we all hope that these changes will have a favorable influence on the neighboring African states that are experiencing considerable difficulties because of the policy of the Republic of South Africa, which is encouraging separatist movements and in general trying to exert its own influence on its neighbors.

So in that context as well the balanced course of the new government--the first government of the majority of Zimbabwe--would seem to introduce a certain equalization of relations in the region. But I'm afraid a lot of difficult and explosive problems have accumulated there. Obviously southern Africa, while having taken a step forward in this progressive development, still remains as a whole far from free.

[Bovin] Of course, it's still an explosive zone.

[Shishlin] Explosive.

[Bovin] Namibia, the Republic of South Africa--all that's still there.

Palestinian Problem

[Shishlin] I think that in connection with events in Zimbabwe and the victory of the Patriotic Front, the victory of ZANU in the latest elections and the emergence of the new state, it's necessary to remind ourselves once again of the stubbon struggle that led to success. It really has been a very long and stubborn struggle. Today's problems have been made more difficult to some extent by that struggle, the length of that struggle. Yet, 7 years ago and long, long before, the issue was perfectly plain: The majority of the population, the native population, demanded and finally won respect for its rights.

Roughly analogous, though every analogy in politics has its complicating difficulties and deviations, is the present position of the Arab people of Palestine, whose right to self-determination...[interrupted by Bovin]

[Bovin] Of course the analogy's rather relative.

[Shishlin] That's what I mean: It was precisely its right to self-determination that the West did not recognize for a long time. But now it is beginning to be recognized that the Palestine Liberation Organization represents the Arab people of Palestine and that the Palestinian Arabs have a right to self-determination. In this respect the recent visit of French President Giscard d'Estaing to the Near East deserves special attention, since it showed above all that France and the states with which Giscard d'Estaing was holding talks see the failure to settle the Near East problem and the ignoring of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine as the main danger to peace and stability.

[Bovin] Yes, that was of course a very interesting visit, interesting from various points of view. The French of course have interests of their own here. They are seeking markets for weapons sales. Oil of course interests them, as does straightforward political influence. But nonetheless this visit did all in all pass in a positive manner, particularly as regards the Palestinian problem, because Giscard d'Estaing took a very hard line when talking about the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, saying that the organization must participate in settling the Palestinian problem. But what is interesting is that Giscard d'Estaing's stance is in sharp contrast to that of the United States, which as we know is steering a course toward the most minimal form of autonomy, as expressed at Camp David. But at present everyone can see that the Camp David agreement is at a dead end. The end of the talks on autonomy is due on 26 May. It is clear to everyone, both Washington and Tel Aviv, and anyone else, I think [interrupted by Shishlin]

[Shishlin] Even to Cairo.

[Bovin] Yes, even to Cairo, that no agreement on autonomy will be reached by 26 May, and thus everything is up in the air.

This Camp David scheme is just hanging in the air. This very visit by Giscard d'Estaing shows that both the Nine, that is West Europe, and the Arabs are now seeking a formula which could replace the Camp David agreement and raise these negotiations to some genuinely realistic level. There we are. But this will of course be very difficult.

[Levin] In this connection I should like to draw attention to another development. A meeting will be held today in Hamburg between French President Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Schmidt. As was announced some time before this meeting, Giscard d'Estaing will offer notes on his tour of the Near Eastern countries, and Schmidt will talk about the results of his visit to the United States of America, a visit whose outcome one could be quite justified in describing by saying that West Germany has in effect sided with the United States' bellicose policy and has to a considerable extent succumbed to American pressure. In these circumstances this meeting between Giscard d'Estaing and Schmidt acquires a special resonance. But we will not try to foresee the results. It seems that they will not become known until this evening.

Iranian Events

[Levin] But I would like to draw attention to the fact that the United States of America is manifesting this implacably tough, aggressive side of their policy in the area of both the Near and Middle East, which has confirmed once again that reaction to Iranian events which has become observable in the past few days.

There were new overflights by American B-52 aircraft over the Strait of Hormuz. The marines were moved closer. The military fist has been clenched tighter and now Brzezinski is talking openly of tough measures against Iran.

[Bovin] Of course the Americans are very nervous at present because the UN commission has resulted in one big muddle. Well, before this commission paid its visit there was--so it was hinted, so it was given to understand--some sort of an agreement existed between the Americans and the Iranians...

[Shishlin] And between the Iranians themselves...

[Bovin] Yes, and inside Iran itself, to the effect that this commission was after all the beginning of the road to freeing the hostages. Then it all fell apart as a result of statements by Khomeyni and Bani-Sadr. It turned out that it wasn't like that at all. The commission departed without getting what they came for, so we might say.

[Shishlin] Although it does intend to resume its work.

[Bovin] Yes, there is some optimistic talk to this effect there. Of course all this put Washington in an altogether very complicated position. But the official Iranian viewpoint is that when the parliament meets in May the whole business will be resolved then.

Anyway, concerning this parliament, that is another interesting point. The elections began the day before yesterday. There are, one might say, two main forces in the fray. On the one side there are the people who support the current president, Bani-Sadr, and on the other is the party with a rather long name which is called the Muslim People's Islamic Republican Party. Its leader is Beheshti.

But the interesting thing is that there were pre-election statements by Khomeyni and Bani-Sadr. I'll just read them so that you can get the feel of the atmosphere. I'll read a few sentences from these statements. Here for instance is Khomeyni's proclamation. He says: American domination is the cause of all the ills of the oppressed nations, while the assault by the aggressive East has caused the countenance of history to darken. That is what Khomeyni says.

Here is Bani-Sadr. He says: We need to achieve complete victory in the liberation from all forms of dominance by the West while not at the same time becoming dependent upon the Russian superpower. He goes on to pose a rhetorical question: Who can deny that Russia is putting every effort into distracting us from our principal goal, while at the same time calmly going about its business in Afghanistan, and that later in its own time it will take us in hand too?

Well, all in all not what I would call a constructive way to formulate the question.

[Levin] Unfortunately not a sufficiently independent formulation either. All in all this is a rehash of the tunes we have heard from Brzezinski and Carter.

[Bovin] There is another interesting assessment by Bani-Sadr, this time on domestic matters rather than foreign policy. This is what he is talking about. He says: The Islamic Revolution Council at present has several weaknesses which must be removed. To date, Bani-Sadr says, decisions which have been made have not been hard and specific. If they are made then they are never put into effect. There are dozens of decision-making centers, he says. Thus, if the new parliament is not united and if it does not coordinate its action with the actions of the president, then new difficulties will be added to the present ones. So you see there is quite a complex situation there.

Marchais Human Rights Proposal

[Levin] To conclude our program I should like to draw attention to one further event which has remained virtually unnoticed by Western bourgeois media but which does merit extremely serious treatment. I refer to the proposal presented by Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, at a session of the European Parliament, to set up a commission to investigate all violations of human rights in the countries of the European Community as well as in the institutions of the European Economic Community. In this speech, Marchais said this:

This is the first time since our assembly was elected that such a proposal has been presented. It is true that the words human rights have been heard here frequently. Over 8 months, no more and no less than 89 resolutions on this policy have been submitted. One could be pleased about this if these 89 resolutions related only to member countries of the European Community. You appear to show interest in human rights in the world only in order to conceal the daily violations of these rights in our countries. For us, such hypocrisy is unacceptable. Marchais demands that the issue of the right to work be raised--there are almost 6 million unemployed in the Common Market countries--along with the issue of rights of foreign workers in these countries--there are 5.8 million of them--as well as the issues of right to housing and life. But the European Parliament, where the conservative forces as you know have a majority, rejected the proposal. This fact confirms once again the whole hypocrisy of the verbiage from the ruling circles of the capitalist countries about the problems of human rights. They are not concerned about human rights, but rather with attempts to use this term to bring about their class aims.

[Shishlin] So now you see how many topics we have touched on in our talk today. I dare say we have far from exhausted the whole wealth of international events and the struggle which is now in progress on the international scene. I feel that overcoming this fracture in international relations, which has greatly increased tension, is crucial now. The course of overcoming crisis situations adopted by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the course of continuing the constructive dialog with all those concerned with peace is perhaps the most promising one.

[Bovin] Indubitably.

[Levin] Our time has run out. Thank you, esteemed listeners, for you attention, and all the best.

GROUP OF 77 ISSUES STATEMENT ON WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM

LD150754 Moscow TASS in English 0724 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] New York, March 15, TASS--The four-day conference of the "Group of 77" at ministers' level came to a close at the U.N. headquarters. The group, notwithstanding its long-established name, consists now of 119 developing member-states of the international community. The conference dealt with the preparation for global talks on international economic cooperation. It was decided to hold such talks in several rounds in New York from January 4 to September 11, 1981.

The leading capitalist countries' policy of discrimination against young developing states was again condemned during the discussion. Thus, despite the growth of those states' export, their external debt increases and has already amounted to 400,000 million dollars. In the final communique, the participants in the conference point with concern to the growth of negative tendencies in international economic relations, which has an increasingly adverse effect on the developing countries. The participants in the conference see the cause of that first of all in the lack of equality between the developed countries and the "Third World". The now existing economic system does not insure such equality, and bars the developing countries from adoption of major decisions at international level.

The communique points out that global talks must lead to concrete agreements on a solution to international economic problems within the framework of restructuring the world economic order in favor of the young states. Decisions must concern raw materials, energy, trade, and finance.

The ministers of the developing countries also reaffirmed necessity to hold the U.N. General Assembly's special session at a high political level in August-September this year on economic problems so that it could make effective steps towards establishing a new economic order.

'MILITARY ACTIVENESS' THREATENS S. ASIA, PERSIAN GULF ZONE

LD141601 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 80 p 14 LD

["Dialog" between Ye. M. Primakov and I.P. Belyayev: "When Black Is Presented as White"—first paragraph is LITERATURNAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] Today Soviet specialists in international affairs are taking part in the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA dialog: Academician Ye.M. Primakov, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies, and Doctor of Economic Sciences I.P. Belyayev, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA's correspondent in the Near and Middle Eastern countries. They have devoted many years to studying the processes taking place in the Near and Middle East in particular. Ye. M. Primakov and I.P. Belyayev are the coauthors of the book "Egypt--President an-Nasir's Time." Their items in the press are widely known.

I. Belyayev: The present international situation has deteriorated appreciably in recent months. The deterioration has reached a kind of peak in the Near and Middle East and South Asia. It is perfectly obvious that this happened as a result of the whole series of actions by the United States and certain of its NATO allies against Iran and Afghanistan, the utilization of Pakistan in these actions and the U.S. attempts to flirt with Islam with the clear intention of kindling virtually a "Muslim conflagration" on the Soviet Union's borders. A whole armada of U.S. Navy ships is continuing to mass in the Persian Gulf and western Indian Ocean on the pretext of protecting and rescuing [spaseniye] the American diplomats held in Tehran. The Pentagon is expediting the deployment of the "quick-reaction corps," intended to occupy refractory oil-producing states, and is feverishly grabbing at the military bases on foreign territories (in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Kenya, Somalia and elsewhere) needed for interventionist actions to "defend" so-called U.S. "vital interests." As a result the American military threat has become still more obvious and the political situation in the Near and Middle East has been destabilized still further, particularly as it has been exceptionally tense throughout recent years as a result of Israel's stubborn refusal to accept a just settlement of the Near East crisis.

The growth in the Israeli military threat is increasingly obvious. The press is reporting plans for Israeli strikes against Syria and Lebanon. President Carter's example has proved extremely infectious; he advanced a new military-political concept whereby "vital interests," as defined by the United States itself, are defended through the direct use of American military force in any point on the globe. General Ziaul Haq, Pakistan's present military ruler, who dreams of avenging defeats in two wars against India--in 1965 and 1971--is seeking to copy this example.

As we can see, there is sufficient evidence of a sharp intensification of the militarist element in U.S. policy in the Near and Middle East. As a result of what processes did the policy we have noted emerge? What caused these processes, and when did the new U.S. policy announce its arrival "at the top of its voice," so to speak?

Ye. Primakov: U.S. actions of which you spoke certainly have underlying causes. I think that, among other antidetente factors, they are based on the U.S. attitude toward the oil problem. Of course, that is not a complete explanation of the reasons for the intensification of the militarist element in American policy in the Near and Middle East. However, this factor is one of the most significant, so I would like to dwell on it in more detail.

The energy crisis in the capitalist world began in 1973. One aspect of it was the U.S. inability to preserve the outmoded system whereby the developed capitalist countries were supplied with oil through deliveries at artifically low prices, mainly from the Arab countries and Iran. [paragraph continues]

These low prices helped make the American oil companies colossally rich. After all, they not only extracted the oil abroad themselves but, being "vertical" associations, sold this crude oil to themselves at low prices and then obtained petroleum products from it and sold those also. The U.S. Government held down the prices of petroleum products but, given the artificially low crude prices (the relatively small concessionary payments to the oil-producing countries were paid on the basis of these prices), the oil companies' profits remained huge. As a result consumers--largely the monopolies, of course--obtained cheap energy and the oil companies got huge profits. At the same time the prices of the industrial goods supplied to the oil-producing countries by the United States, West Europe and Japan rose constantly.

However, the situation changed when the oil-producing countries, banding together in a united organization of exporting countries--OPEC--succeeded in carrying out a whole series of measures both to nationalize their oil resources and to sharply increase oil prices, which considerably increased their income. A fundamentally new situation was created. The age of cheap oil was over. The United States lost the ability to control the machinery for fixing oil prices. True, the oil companies continued to make tremendous profits, since the prices of the petroleum products they produce jumped following the increase in oil prices. But other monopoly capital groups--the consumers of oil and petroleum products--suffered losses.

In 1974-1979--under various U.S. Presidents--five energy programs were adopted, and to understand U.S. policy in the Near and Middle East it is necessary to dwell on their evolution. Let us consider the two extremes--the first program, adopted in 1974 under President Nixon, and the fifth and most recent, proposed in 1979 by the Carter administration.

The first program was titled "Independence" which reflected its goal: self-sufficiency in energy resources and the abandonment of oil imports as the major source of covering U.S. energy needs. This program envisaged doubling oil extraction on U.S. territory (to 800 million tons annually), developing the nuclear power industry and seeking alternative energy sources.

It can be asserted that this first program was prepared in the interests of those groups of American monopoly capital which are mainly oil consumers. However, at the same time it did not meet the interests of the U.S. oil monopolies, which obtain the greater part of their colossal profits through operations abroad. An increase in oil extraction inside the United States did not promise them adequate advantages--oil on U.S. territory is obtained in far worse geological conditions, and the system of taxation and payments to cover ecological outlays which exists in the United States increases its prime cost still further and accordingly reduces the monopolies' profits. All this meant that the big American oil monopolies gave the first energy program a hostile reception and began to fight it.

I. Belyayev: So what happened next? It seems to me that in the years passed since the adoption of the "independence" program the big American oil trusts have not become any weaker than they were before, judging from the latest reports received, in particular after Carter's victory in the New Hampshire primaries, the most that the present President is threatening is to tax the oil companies' superprofits. But that has nothing in common with the "Independence" program!

Ye. Primakov: An answer to that question is provided by Carter's latest energy program.

It reveals a complete renunciation of the basic aims put forward in the "Independence" program: The United States is keeping oil and gas--at least for the next 10 years--as the basic element determining the structure of energy consumption; as before, the United States is oriented toward covering a signficant proportion of its requirements (50 percent in the case of oil) from imports. Energy-saving measures envisaged in the fifth energy program do not alter its main thrust--the U.S. economy is oriented toward continuing, and in the next 10 years increasing, it dependence on oil imports. And the main region suppling these imports will be the Persian Gulf Zone.

Thus it can be recorded that the oil monopolies won. But that coincided with a crushing defeat for American imperialism in Iran, which seriously frightened the U.S. administration. In these conditions the Carter government has placed the emphasis on intensifying the military element in its Near East policy.

I. Belyayev: What is the true purpose of these measures? After all, if you rely on the explanations of certain American military men and politicians, it is a question of responding to a threat to occupy practically the entire Persian Gulf zone on the part of... the Soviet Union, which allegedly hankers after the warm seas of the Indian Ocean. What is really happening?

Ye. Primakov: It is by no means a question of guaranteeing oil supplies against any actions on the part of any countries or force. There is no question of that. The oil is flowing and the American leadership is perfectly well aware that nobody has any intention of stopping it. But the United States would apparently like to achieve three goals. The first is that the oil-extracting countries--first and foremost Saudi Arabia--should not reduce the quantity of oil extracted and should even increase extraction against their national interests. The second aim--the United States wants those countries to act with "loyalty" on questions of price fixing. It was President Carter himself who said 12 December last year (that is, before the entry of a USSR military contingent into Afghanistan at its government's request) that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf zone could act against the "inflation" of oil prices. Finally, the United States has an interest in the artificially created military and political tension in the region in order to maintain greater control of their West European and Japanese allies' relations with Persian Gulf countries.

All this leads to the thought that the strengthening of the military element in American policy in the Near and Middle East region is obviously long term. I was in Washington in late December last year together with some of my colleagues from the USSR Academy of Sciences and I visited the State Department and the Pentagon. In the Pentagon the department chief, in answer to our question as to whether the concentration of American naval forces in the Persian Gulf zone will introduce certain changes into U.S. military planning, said that it is a question of transferring U.S. naval forces to permanent basing in the Persian Gulf zone and the western part of the Indian Ocean. I will note that our talk with the American general also took place before the Soviet troops' entry into Afghanistan.

I. Belyayev: It seems that those who, knowing the true position in President Carter's entourage, stress the extremely negative role of his National Security Adviser Z. Brzezinski in recent events are right. It is Brzezinski who is responsible for the well-known theory of the so-called "arc of crisis": from Afghanistan, through Iran and the Arabian Peninsula to the Horn of Africa. As early as last year he was trying to prove by means of this "theory" that it is all a question of so-called "machinations" by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, Iran, the Arabian Peninsula, Ethiopia and Angola. But in fact, by his "machinations" argument Brzezinski was trying to invent a cover for intensified U.S. imperialist aspirations.

American politicians, just like CIA analysts, failed to understand the nature of the colossal changes which have taken place in the countries named. I would call Brzezinski's "arc of crisis" an "arc of errors" by the United States, of a whole chain of errors committed in those countries, which led to disastrous consequences for the United States.

The United States was counting on the relaxation of international tension hindering social shifts in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Naturally, this did not happen. Hence the desire emerged in Washington to patch the gaps which had appeared by military or military-political methods. American politicians intend to create strongholds in that region by means of a series of bilateral and multilateral agreements. In order to achieve this goal, for instance, American-Pakistani relations are being reviewed and this is substantially changing the approach to the correlation of forces in South Asia and in the Near and Middle East. With the support of Britain and certain other of America's NATO allies President Carter intends to rearm Pakistan. Alongside this--or perhaps, more precisely, underlying it--is a kind of "ideological cushion": the so-called "commonality" of the interests of the United States and the Muslim countries which is being proclaimed.

How do you regard President Carter's flirtation with Islam?

Ye. Primakov: Obviously it looks odd when the United States tries to act as a "defender" of Islam, "Islamic traditions" and "Islamic solidarity." I could cite contrary assertions by Brzezinski himself only a year ago. So why is Washington displaying ardent love for Islam today?

The point is that Islam's influence on the processes of social development in Asian countries and in international affairs in general has increased sharply just recently. And this influence is complex and diverse. In general the Islamic movement can obviously no longer be regarded as a unified whole. It is made up of various currents. There is a radical current which is strongly anti-imperialist in content. There is also, in relative terms, a bourgeois-landowning current which has a strong anticommunist and anti-Soviet thrust. In any case there are real differences within the Islamic movement.

Take, for example, the events in Iran. The revolutionary process in this country is in many respects tinged with religious colors and in a number of cases assumes a religious form, which sometimes makes it complex. At the same time, it is a fact that active participation in revolutionary events in Iran by certain groups of the Muslim clergy has led to the unprecedented politicization of the most backward section of the population. In the specific conditions this contributed to the alienation of the bourgeoisie from the leadership of the mass movement, which was of positive significance since it neutralized the concillatory, compromise slogans of the bourgeoisie whose aim was to preserve the monarchy, not to liquidate it. The anti-imperialist and antimonopoly thrust of the revolutionary movement was intensified.

The United States could not fail to notice all this. It feared a general intensification of Islam's anti-imperalist thrust, tried to play on its other side--the conservative side--and strove to give it a hypertrophied form by intensifying the anti-Soviet and anticommunist element.

At the moment the United States has a particularly strong interest in deforming the Islamic movement in this way--obviously for two reasons. First, the Carter administration, after ultimately resolving the hostage problem, wants to try to channel political activity in Iran against the Soviet Union. [paragraph continues]

The second reason is closely linked to the first: The United States is seeking to use the green banners of Islam to create a front of struggle against the Afghan revolution. Moreover, the phony genuflection to Islam is designed to take the heat out of the anti-Americanism in the Muslim countries. A characteristic example is Saudi Arabia. In recent years the United States has been anxious about the growing anti-American trends in the policy of the Saudi leadership which resolutely opposed the Egyptian-Israeli separate deal concluded under U.S. auspices. Taking advantage of the events in Afghanistan, the Americans skillfully played on Riyadh's oversensitivity as regards Muslim problems, especially since the Mecca incident, and is now trying to draw the Saudis into supporting the unpopular Pakistani regime and to sour their relations with Afghanistan, Iran and the USSR.

I. Belyayev: What, essentially, is the U.S. tactical line on Afghanistan? The ballyhoo in American and West European papers only confuses matters--to Washington's advantage! I will say, though, that the U.S. strategic line has been clear from the very beginning. It wants to stifle the Afghan revolution and bring to power in this country a pro-American regime (as a cover, it may call itself "neutral") speculating on Islamic slogans. However, it clearly fails to take into account the possibility of resistance, primarily on the part of the Afghan people. This is the fundamental blunder in U.S. strategic designs vis-a-vis this country.

Ye. Primakov: It is common knowledge (it is not even denied by the American press) that the Afghan counterrevolution and its detachments are being trained and armed abroad. This training is directed by the United States. But the constant outside pressure on Afghanistan is only one aspect of American tactics. The other is that the United States, through its local agents, was striving, prior to the events of late December, to strengthen those processes that were undermining and weakening the revolutionary regime and aiding the counterrevolution. There is information that Amin was in constant contact with the Americans--the Amin who for many months played an exceptional role in the formulation and adoption of Afghan leadership decisions and, following the heinous murder of the leader of the revolution, Taraki, took full control of policymaking. But what was his policy? Mass shootings, the incitement of one part of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan against another, the slaughter of party cadres, mindless attacks on the clergy, unprepared measures in the social sphere. Of course, all this was unable to, simply did not have time to, nullify the great achievements of the April revolution. Although this was Amin's aim. And the greatest danger--the Americans tried to play on this--was the reinforced combination of these two aspects: counterrevolutionary pressure from outside and the "vacuum" inside Afghanistan created through Amin's efforts, into which, according to the U.S. plan, bands of mercenaries beneath Islamic banners were to be drawn.

I. Belyayev: The Afghan events also manifest the extremely negative role of the current Chinese leadership. The American-Chinese "alliance" play a significant role generally in the intensification of antidetente processes in the world. People write and talk openly in the United States about "playing" the so-called "China card." I will not go into details about what "playing" means. In this case it is far more important to ascertain what effect this "playing" might have on the political situation in the Near and Middle East and in southern Asia.

If the Amin clique had come out on top in Kabul the length of Soviet border which would have required considerable strengthening for security purposes would have increased by 2,500 kms.

I am not saying that China would have rushed headlong into using this border for the implementation of anti-Soviet actions. But, considering the present course of the Beijing leadership and its rapprochement with American imperialism, it would be a mistake to rule out such actions. It is highly probably that the traditionally calm and peaceful Soviet-Afghan border would have become a source of grave anxiety for our country. To permit something like this would have been to forget our historical experience.

Young Soviet Russia began by stubbornly and purposefully creating a "zone of good neighborliness" on its southern borders. Moreover, despite colossal economic difficulties, our country renounced a whole series of privileges and rights enjoyed by tsarist Russia and, moreover, granted loans and other types of aid to our southern neighbors. This is what V.I. Lenin regarded as the "vital interest" of Soviet Russia's Near East policy. The conclusion of Soviet Russia's well-known friendship treaties with Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan in 1921 was a concrete expression of this "vital interest."

Now, on the threshold of the eighties the Soviet Union, as in the twenties, is interested in genuinely good-neighborly relations with Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. At the same time it is perfectly obvious that, although it makes no territorial claims whatsoever on these countries, the Soviet Union cannot allow these countries to be used to undermine its security.

What role might the so-called "China card" play in general U.S. policy in the Near and Middle East?

Ye. Primakov: It seems to me that the "playing" of the "China card" has been introduced into American politics by Brzezinski. He is responsible for the idea that the so-called "normalization" of American-Chinese relations should occupy one of the chief places in the system of U.S. foreign policy priorities. He, Brzezinski, also does not hide the fact that the development of American-Chinese relations should resolve the task of the struggle against the Soviet Union. As a result, as many people expected, the process of normalizing U.S. relations with the PRC has developed into the coordination of a policy directed against the Soviet Union, the socialist community countries and national liberation forces.

What could happen as a result? The American-Chinese political "equation" is an equation with many unknown quantities. I do not think that the United States will succeed in channeling China's policy in one--anti-Soviet--direction. There exists a traditional sphere of Chinese expansion--South and Southeast Asia. By strengthening China the United States will willy-nilly encourage it to expand in this and other regions of Asia.

It is no accident that India is alarmed at the situation which is being created and, particularly, at the fact that a rapprochement is taking place between China and Pakistan with U.S. encouragement. India is rightly suspicious of its Chinese neighbor, which openly claims part of its territory. Pakistan, armed to the teeth by the United States, is clearly growing stronger now, too. Ziaul Haq is evidently a cunning politician. Many people believe not without reason that Pakistan is using the Afghan situation chiefly to get all it can from both the United States and China and then to ponder some form of revenge for its defeat in the war with India. Considerable significance is also attached to the fact that, in the atmosphere of war hysteria and given imperialism's interest in Pakistan as its bastion in Asia, the Pakistani leaders have virtually received the Western states' consent to create their own nuclear weapons, on which work has long been continuing.

Today it is possible to conclude that, through its actions in the Near and Middle East connected with "playing" the "China card," the United States is creating a whole zone of tension embracing a vast geographical region--which runs counter to the national interests of not only India but also other countries. This policy could result in a whole series of conflicts of an international nature.

I. Belyayev: Under the new conditions which have been created the United States would like to have Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and many other Arab countries as active members of a new military-political alliance in the Near and Middle East. In this connection Carter sets himself the task of creating preconditions for an Israeli-Arab rapprochement on the basis of the accords reached at Camp David. The American and West European press has recently been writing a great deal about the "peace process" in the Near East, the "normalization" of Egypt's relations with Israel and the talks on so-called "administrative autonomy" for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank of the Jordan and in Gaza. But this wordy ballyhoo masks a quiet development of events which certainly do not lead to peace. New facts have become known, attesting that Israel took part in the explosion of a nuclear device manufactured in the Republic of South Africa--which once again demonstrated the fueling of tension in the Near and Middle East. What, then, are the aims being pursued by this U.S.-inspired "dynamic"?

Ye. Primakov: The Israeli ambassador recently presented his credentials in Cairo, and the Egyptian ambassador in occupied Jerusalem. You might think there is nothing bad about the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries which had been in a state of war for more than 30 years. But the thing is that it is precisely the "normalization" of Egyptian-Israeli relations, which is being conducted on a separate basis against the interests of Egypt and all other Arab countries, as well as the Palestinian people, which is retarding the process of establishing real peace in the region. This is not progress but, on the contrary, the wrecking of a truly peaceful, comprehensive settlement in the Near East. This is why the overwhelming majority of Arab countries, as well as the Soviet Union, was against As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem and the Camp David deal right from the beginning.

I wish to remind you that As-Sadat's trip, which initiated the Camp David compact, was essentially undertaken following the 1 October 1977 signing of the Soviet-American joint statement on the Near East, which opened up the prospect of achieving an overall settlement. But instead of fulfilling the commitments which it had adopted, the United States pushed for a separate solution, which took Egypt--the strongest Arab country in the military and economic respects and the biggest in terms of population--out of the struggle to liquidate the consequences of Israel's 1967 aggression. This weakened the Arabs' positions and, on the other hand, strengthened those of Israel, which seeks not a compromise solution in the interests of all peoples but to persuade the Arabs to capitulate.

I. Belyayev: At what price is the semblance of "continuing" the so-called "peace process" in the Near East being achieved? For it is perfectly obvious that this "process," about which so much is spoken in the United States, leads nowhere. A downright impasse has been formed, threatening new complications and an explosion, for example, on the borders of Lebanon and Syria.

Ye. Primakov: Indeed, Israel has returned part of Sinai to Egypt--75 percent has already been returned, and the rest will be handed over to it in 3 years' time. If it is. But at the same time conditions are being created which assist Israel's annexation of the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza region. The Israelis are seeking to establish themselves on the captured territories, depriving the Arabs of Palestine of their motherland. Israel wishes to cancel out the Palestinian people's lawful right to self-determination. The United States is helping it in this.

It also seems to me that the military aspects of the Camp David accords have recently been increasingly exposed. The United States is compensating Israel for "conceding" Sinai to Egypt with special financial assistance...for the construction of two very big airbases in the Negev Desert. At the same time the United States is urging As-Sadat to "normalize" with Israel by promising him large consignments of modern American weapons. What for? Of course not for As-Sadat's struggle against Begin or vice versa. It is characteristic that, scarcely had the recent events occurred in Afghanistan, Israel's defense minister proclaimed his readiness to offer his country's military bases to the United States. And As-Sadat agreed to join flight training with Americans involving the overflight of airbases [trenirovochnyy oblet baz vvs] in Egypt. This is what the U.S. line leads to--to the creation, for its policy, of new military capabilities stemming from the separate Egyptian-Israeli pact.

I. Belyayev: A careful analysis of the most recent events in the Near and Middle East from positions of unbiased, objective political observers suggests the conclusion that, in seeking to assert its permanent military presence in this region and in the western sector of the Indian Ocean supposedly in order to defend some sort of "vital interests," the Carter administration is displaying a propensity to pass off black as white. By indulging in such a political balancing act and ascribing "aggressive designs" to the Soviet Union and the socialist countries the United States wishes to justify at any price its military activeness, which today threatens above all the countries of the Persian Gulf zone and South Asia, world peace and the security of the world's peoples. The Soviet Union is resolutely opposed to this policy. Campaigning for universal disarmament and peace throughout the world, for the triumph of the principles of detente and against infringements of other people's sovereignty, Soviet people are confident that no one will deflect them from this noble course.

WASHINGTON WANTS BANI-SADR ELECTION VICTORY

LD141520 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] New York, March 14, TASS--In Iran, the first stage of elections to the country's parliament is being held today. In this connection the New York TIMES newspaper writes that Mr Carter is now waiting to see what happens in Tehran, and hoping for the success of Mr Bani-Sadr in the elections. The newspaper points out that the United States President is trying, through various private, political and religious emissaries, to enter into contact with Iranian figures and urge them to consider that Washington and Tehran are not enemies, and also to prove to them that the USA and Iran have a common purpose in defending their states. The newspaper concludes that the main problem is to get control over the state of affairs into the hands of Bani-Sadr and Qotbzadeh who have clearly come to the conclusion that the release of the U.S. hostages is essential to Iran's security.

The Washington POST, for its part, writes that Bani-Sadr's proposal as to an inquiry at U.S. Congress into the U.S. interference in Iran's internal affairs will relieve the White House of a public confession of its guilt with regard to Iran.

CARTER, SENATORS FANNING HYSTERIA FOR POLITICAL ENDS

LD141656 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 14, TASS--The anti-Iranian hysteria is growing in Washington; Senator Robert Dole has called for punitive measures against Iran. In the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD he insists that "the criminal nation", that is Iran, be crushed by the entire weight of U.S. economic sanctions. The senator demanded that the United States together with its allies build up around Iran a firm wall of economic boycott and shore it up with the entire might of naval ships and aircraft.

Such incendiary statements, that are insulting to the Iranian people, are a component part of the hostile anti-Iranian campaign directed at preparing the American and world public opinion for the possibility of punitive actions against Iran. The New York TIMES writes that White House spokesman are voicing serious doubt about the ability of the Iranian Government to function and to discharge its duties in general. Senator Javits openly stated that Iran did not have a government capable of functioning.

As it is noted by political observers, President Carter continues to believe that at the present stage the fanning up of the "atmosphere of crisis" around the problem of American hostages accords with his election interests since this helps him to unite behind his candidature and considerable number of voters who consider it necessary to support the President at a time of crisis.

While focusing attention on the so called problem of hostages the U.S. Government has failed to satisfy a single Iranian demand concerning the extradition of the former shah. All this leads to certain thoughts. It is not by chance, it seems, that American propaganda has again put into circulation the story about the shah needing an "urgent operation". The same thoughts are generated also by the report that Hamilton Jordan, the closest assistant of the President who is considered to be his right hand, has left for Panama. Reporting this, the CBS television company stresses that Jordan will conduct talks there with Panamanian leaders concerning the Iranian shah who is staying in that country.

PRESIDENT HOLDS WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON IRAN

LD151132 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 15, TASS--The United States President James Carter held a conference in the White House on Friday. It dealt with the U.S.-Iranian conflict. Taking part in the meeting were Cyrus Vance, secretary of state, Harold Brown, secretary of defence, Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to the President for national security affairs, as well as Hamilton Jordan, one of the closest assistants to the President.

Local observers believe that Jordan made a report on the tour which he just made to Panama where he had talks with the leaders of that country about the former shah of Iran who is now there. Jordan is known to have played the main role in fixing up the deposed monarch's stay in Panama in December last year.

A White House spokesman categorically declined to comment on the conference or even to confirm the very fact of the tour by Jordan who is reckoned the President's right-hand man.

WALL STREET JOURNAL URGES RESCUE OF U.S. HOSTAGES

LD151742 Moscow TASS in English 1656 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 15 TASS--The first round of parliamentary elections in Iran took place in the main in a calm atmosphere, although in a number of provinces counter-revolutionary elements made attempts to interfere with voting, the President of Iran A. Bani-Sadr said in an interview with Radio Tehran. During the day yesterday, security organs arrested in Tehran about 100 persons who made attempts to influence election results by putting pressure on illiterate electors.

By the decision of the Ministry of the Interior elections in Sanandaj, Marivan, Baneh and Saqqiz, which have a Kurdish population, as well as Neghed, Sirjan and Bahar will be held later when the situation in these cities is normalized.

New York, March 15, TASS--A representative of the U.N. secretary general said that K. Waldheim had three meetings with members of the international commission of inquiry into Iran's grievances against the former shah and the activities of the USA in Iran. During these meetings, he said, the work done by the commission in Tehran was reviewed in detail. The secretary general and commission members also discussed the commission's further work.

The bourgeois press in America is visibly irritated by the fact that the commission has halted its work and returned from Iran. The New York POST, fully absolving the United States of responsibility for the crimes committed in that country, says that President Carter should close the Iranian Embassy and consulates in the USA without wasting time and expel all Iranian diplomats. The newspaper also urges Washington to pressure American allies into actively supporting the United States' sanctions against Iran.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL asserts that the use of military force, or at least meaningful threat of force, is now the only suitable reply to Iran. The newspaper describes in detail the layout of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and suggests ways for well-trained paratroopers to carry out a rescue operation.

Rome, March 15, TASS--The Government of Italy has decided to resume shipments of helicopter spare parts to Iran. A spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Rome said that Washington has the right to consider an embargo on shipments since helicopters and spares for them are manufactured in Italy on American licence.

ARMS SALE TO EGYPT PREPARATION FOR 'GENDARME ROLE'

LD141224 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 14, TASS--The United States began massively arming its new client in the Middle East--As-Sadat's Egypt which Washington is preparing for the role of gendarme of imperialism's interests in the region. The role which has been 'vacant' since the Iranian revolution.

The Pentagon officially notified Congress of plans to supply Egypt with a large batch of M-60 A3 tanks. The Pentagon's statement points out that the vehicles, provided with newest fire control means, are to be delivered to Egypt directly from the tank works assembly lines. The Pentagon even went to a suspension of the supply of these tanks to the U.S. Army which will be able to get them with at least a one-and-a-half-year delay. The first combat vehicles are to be sent to Egypt in December this year. In all, 244 tanks are to be sold to the tune of 454 million dollars.

The deliveries are part of the program to arm Egypt. The program which was endorsed by the Carter administration envisages the sale 1,000 million dollars worth of newest U.S. armaments to Cairo. Apart from tanks, it provides for the sale of 40 F-16 U.S. fighters.

Besides, Washington granted another 1,500 million dollars to Egypt for the purchase of U.S. armaments within the framework of special military aid in token of "gratitude" for As-Sadat's consent to make a separate deal with Israel.

Washington, by carrying out broad deliveries of armaments to Egypt, kills two birds with one stone, as the saying goes. On the one hand, it binds Egypt more closely to the U.S. chariot in the Middle East and turns it into an instrument of its imperialist policy and, on the other hand, Washington is shifting on to Egypt part of the burden to subsidize U.S. own military-industrial complex. Thus, all the 454 million dollars assigned to Egypt for the purchase of tanks will in the end wind up in the money boxes of the military-industrial company Chrysler which manufactures the tanks.

COMMENTARIES SCORE STRAUSS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Gan View of Visit

LD141604 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 14, TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports:

The U.S. administration has rolled out a red carpet to Bavarian prime minister, candidate to the post of FRG's Federal chancellor from opposition F.-J. Strauss who has arrived here on a visit. Head of the West German ultras was accorded the greatest honours which are the paraphernalia reserved for foreign heads of state and government. Strauss was received in the White House, where he and an "exchange of opinions" with Carter and his National Security Adviser Brzezinski.

The reasons for such a pompous reception are easy to understand, which is confirmed by the White House report on the results of the meeting between Strauss and the President. As is clear from the document, the Bavarian "applied balm" to the heart of the administration. by wholly and unconditionally supporting its jettisoning of the policy of detente, its course towards intensified arms race and confrontation. The White House stated in so many words that Strauss supported the President's policy on all issues of mutual interest.

In his statement for the press the leader of the West German ultras resorted to vicious attacks on the Soviet Union, its fraternal assistance to the Afghan people and went out of his way to denigrate the policy of international detente. Demonstrating a complete lack of originality, Strauss even borrowed some of the terminology now in vogue in the White House. His pronouncements are replete with rationalisations about the "crisis arc" which, as is known, emerged in Brzezinski's imagination, "Soviet expansionism" and "the threat from the East." The belligerent guest called on the countries of Western Europe--to Washington's clear satisfaction--to join in the U.S. provocative efforts to build up its military presence in areas of "vital interest" to the West, the stationing in the Continent of Europe of U.S. nuclear, including neutron, weapons, and in the build-up of NATO armaments.

Commenting on Strauss's U.S. trip, observers point out that the White House went out of its way to "play into the hands of" the head of West German opposition in order to apply still greater pressure to the government of Schmidt and to tie Bonn still closer to its own adventurist course.

Criticism of Strauss

LD151602 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in German to Germany 1830 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] According to a report in KOELNER STADTANZEIGER, the opposition's candidate for the chancellorship, Franz-Josef Strauss, at a luncheon with Rockefeller in New York advocated that the military risk for the USSR should be increased to force the USSR to withdraw its limited troop contingents from Afghanistan. The visitor from Bavaria also implied [words indistinct] that it was time to use military sanctions against the USSR. It looks as if the CDU-CSU's candidate for the chancellorship even wants to outstrip U.S. President Carter who has until now confined himself to economic blackmail of the USSR. Let us leave aside the question whether even such a developed industrial power as the United States is capable of harming the Soviet economy by a boycott. The West is well aware of the Soviet position in this respect. Throughout its history the Soviet state has been repeatedly threatened and not only threatened, both with economic and military sanctions. [Passage indistinct] But all attempts to talk to the USSR with a language of strength have proved futile. Our state has developed according to the wishes of the Soviet people.

It must be assumed that the opposition's candidate for the chancellorship has some knowledge of modern history and, at least in general outline, of the history of the USSR. What then is to be made of his remarks? As an attempt shortly before the start of the election campaign for the Bundestag elections to focus attention on himself as a politician of world stature? Indeed, why should Strauss find it necessary to add Carter's election campaign problems to burden his own campaign problems. Surely he has enough of his own.

Strauss said exactly what one wanted to hear from him. After all he is well known in the United States. As minister of defense and later finance minister when the CDU-CSU was in power, he had close contacts with many U.S. politicians who are still in influential positions. One may assume therefore that it was very important for the Carter administration to hear from the CDU-CSU's candidate for the chancellorship about his intentions should he win the Bundestag elections. Until very recently Strauss said that if he were to come to power he would observe the Eastern treaties. Now, however, the position has been clarified. He no longer talks about observing the Eastern treaties. He proposes to reassess the economic cooperation with the Eastern partners. In other words, the candidate for the chancellorship declared his entire support for Carter's economic sanctions against the USSR.

Serov Commentary

LD142134 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14, TASS--TASS news analyst Vladimir Serov writes:

Washington welcomes the "guest of honour" with great pomp. He is received by President Carter in the White House and the President's National Security Adviser Brzezinski holds a conversation with him. His visit receives the widest possible coverage from U.S. mass media. Who is the object of such honors? Is he a head of state, a head of government? No. The pompous reception is being accorded in Washington to F-J. Strauss, leader of the conservative CDU-CSU opposition bloc.

Incidentally, there is nothing to be surprised at: The fact is that among the official and semiofficial foreign guests visiting Washington these days by far not all are in agreement with the present foreign policy course of the Carter administration, aimed at undermining detente--but Mr Strauss is in agreement with this course, unreservedly supporting it.

While in the United States, the West German visitor freely makes many anti-Soviet utterances. To all who could hear him, he advocates a further increase, within NATO's framework, of the military spending, the stationing in West Europe of new U.S. nuclear missiles, the West European countries' "joining" in the "boycott" of the Olympic games in Moscow proclaimed by the Carter Administration, etc. Wishing to please his U.S. hosts, the West German guest has even spoken out in favour of West Germany's curtailing its trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries although, in the admission of business circles of the FRG and of many prominent political figures in Bonn, this would mean a substantial economic damage to the FRG. Strauss, as is clear from the official statement by the White House on the results of the meeting between Carter and Strauss, expressed his support for the policy pursued by the U.S. President on all questions of mutual interest.

The fact that Strauss is so openly demonstrating his commitment to Carter's course to disrupt detente, comes as no surprise: This is the old line pursued by the right-wing of the CDU-CSU and at present, on the eve of the elections in the FRG, the leader of the West German opposition, known to wish the post of a chancellor, demonstrating a "community of views" with Washington clearly wishes, besides all else, to gain politically on this.

And what is the Washington administration after? Judging by all the signs, it counts for its part, on that the demonstration of "common positions" with the leader of the CDU-CSU will make it possible to apply increasing pressure on the Schmidt government and to tie Bonn to the dangerous adventurist course of Washington. With this backdrop, is it really surprising that the master of the White House and the West German guest should have found a common language?

U.S. ENVOY'S 'IMPUDENT' ACTIVITY IN GREECE NOTED

LD151342 Moscow TASS in English 1315 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Athens, March 15, TASS--Democratic opposition parties strongly condemn the attempts at interference in the internal affairs of Greece by the U.S. Embassy. The parliamentary inquiry by a group of communist deputies stresses that U.S. Ambassador to Athens Robert McCloskey is engaged in activity, which is incompatible with his diplomatic status. In his address to Greek audiences, the inquiry points out, he advocates Greece's speediest return to the military organization of NATO and settlement of the problems of the Aegean Sea and Cyprus with due regard for the interests of the "military allies" of Greece. "The government condones the open interference by U.S. representatives in the country's internal affairs," the deputies point out touching upon the attitudes of the Greek authorities to the activity of the U.S. Embassy.

The communist MP's draw attention to the fact that the government gives American representatives an opportunity to visit freely Greek Army units and closed-type institutions unimpeded. As a result of the connivance of the authorities, the American have access to practically any information, are cooperating with the local special services and have files for the Greek Army officers.

A fresh fact of open interference on the part of the U.S. Embassy in the country's internal affairs is the visit on March 12 at a Greek military base and airforce headquarters in Larisa by a group of American diplomats with McCloskey at their head. Assessing this visit as a continuation of the attempts by the United States at turning Greece into a U.S. satellite, the democratic forces are protesting against the impudent activity of U.S. representatives in the country.

CRITICISM OF CARTER'S ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES

LD151454 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1212 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, 15 March, (TASS)--J. Carter, in a White House speech relayed on radio and TV, has announced a program of measures to combat inflation. The U.S. President stated that at the present time the inflation rate in the United States is almost 20 percent in annual terms, which threatens the country's economic security. At the same time the President noted that inflation is an acute problem for the whole of the capitalist world and that it has become deeply established.

The measures announced by Carter show that the U.S. administration has decided to shift the burden of the fight against inflation on to the shoulders of the working masses. They include cutting state budget expenditure, restricting commercial and consumer credit and imposing a special tariff on imported oil. The state budget spending cuts for fiscal 1981 totalling $13-14 billion are clearly of a discriminatory character. They exclusively affect expenditure on urgent social needs.

Thus the President proposes to slice $1.6 billion dollars off the program for combating youth unemployment, to cut allocations for reforming the social welfare system by $859 million and medical aid to low-paid Americans by $400 million. Cities and states coping with acute financial crises have been stripped of promised federal treasury aid of $3 billion.

At the same time the President leaves intact the other spending side of the state budget; the military expenditure which is the main cause of the growing inflation. Carter particularly stressed that U.S. military spending in the current year exceeds $140 billion and in fiscal 1981 will total $161.8 billion. This statement confirms yet again that the U.S. administration intends to continue traveling the road of boosting the arms race, which represents a grave threat to international peace and peoples security, in favor of the military-industrial complex.

In expounding his program Carter admitted that implementing it will require sacrifice on the part of many Americans. These actions are going to cost us dear, the President said, they are going to hurt. Here the President made it clear that it will be primarily the millions of American working people who are going to pay for the failures of his own economic policy and for the unbridled arms race.

Observers note that this is the fourth program of measures to combat inflation announced by the present administration. The first three yielded no results.

A number of prominent politicians in the country have already expressed criticism of the measures proposed by the administration to combat inflation. Senator E. Kennedy one of the leading challengers for the post of presidential candidate for the Democratic Party, has described Carter's measures as "too late and too weak." He stated that the administration is laying "the main burden of these measures on the most disadvantaged sections of society."

Former California Governor R. Reagan, who is running for the Republican presidential nomination, said: "This is not the right remedy to cure inflation. I do not believe in presidential maneuvers which have been worked out at the last minute and which are dictated by electoral considerations."

The New York TIMES also points to the electoral nature of the measures announced by the President. The newspaper writes that Carter is trying to deprive his political rivals of the chance to use inflation in the election battle as a "potentially explosive problem in the presidential election." One of the President's assistants, the newspaper continues, described this program as "Jimmy Carter's biggest political gamble." In his words, "we needed to do something before this problem blew up in our faces."

The New York TIMES goes on to say that even Carter's administration admits that its new program will hardly have a visible effect on inflation during 1980. The problem of inflation has its roots too deep and its causes have little in common with the program announced.

Further Criticism

LD161654 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 16, TASS--Broad segments of the American public are sharply criticising the programme of measures to combat inflation announced by the Carter administration.

The prominent American economist L. Chimerin says the measures announced by the President will produce opposite results and in the coming months further increase the inflationary process in the country.

The influential public organization "Americans for Democratic Action" stated that Carter's proposals are a rehashment of old measures that have failed and are directed at reducing social programmes.

The Republican contender for the presidency Reagan expressed doubt that Carter's anti-inflation programme could check the growing cost of living in the country. He criticized Carter's plans to increase taxes and stressed that such measures were superficial and not directed at combatting inflation.

Black congressmen condemned the administration's plans to reduce spendings on social needs. Thus, Congressman R. Mitchell, a Democrat from Maryland, said that these measures would affect first of all the poor sections of American society and the interests of national minorities.

At the same time the administration's refusal to reduce the huge military allocations, which are the prime cause of inflation, greatly delights the military-industrial complex of the United States and its placement. Thus, Senator Nunn declared his intention to "struggle" for a further increase of the military budget at the expense of other programmes. In the next fiscal year military allocations will amount to a record 161.8 billion dollars.

New York, March 16, TASS--Analysing President Carter's anti-inflation programme the New York TIMES writes that in the opinion of leading economists it increases the probability of a big slump this year. Carter's programme is not new, the paper writes. Like the measures that have already failed it pursues the aim of slowing down inflation by restraining economic activity.

In another article the New York TIMES stresses that Carter's measures to struggle against inflation are motivated by election campaign considerations.

The editorial article in the New York DAILY NEWS criticizes the President's proposals. Those who hoped that President Carter would launch a sweeping offensive on the country's present economic crisis were greatly disappointed by the administration's anti-inflation programme, the paper notes. The half measures suggested by Carter are directed against the symptoms and not against the root causes.

GERALD FORD DECIDES NOT TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

LD161019 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 16, TASS--Ex-President of the United States Gerald Ford has officially announced that he will not run for the presidency of the United States from the Republican Party. He motivated his step by saying that he did not want to drive a wedge into the party's ranks. Many supporters of G. Ford hoped till the recent time that he would joint the election race, considering his as the strongest Republican candidate for the presidency. According to the recently held public opinion poll, G. Ford enjoyed greater popularity than J. Carter.

PRC FOREIGN MINISTER RENEWS THREAT TO VIETNAM

LD141123 Moscow TASS in English 1111 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Manila, March 14, TASS--Huang Hua, the PRC's minister of foreign affairs, winding up his four-day visit to the Philippines, stated before departure today that China intends to reserve the right to teach a second lesson to Vietnam.

The statement by the Beijing emissary indicates that the aggressive expansionist course of Chinese leadership, which recently unilaterally interrupted the talks on settlement of relations with the SRV and which is building up military forces on the border with Vietnam, constitutes a real threat to peace and security in Asia.

PRC EXPANSIONISM BIGGEST THREAT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

LD141531 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[I. Shchedrov article: "Who Is Threatening Peace in Southeast Asia"]

[Text] Western and Beijing propaganda services are not slackening the intensity of the slander campaign against Socialist Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK]. While continuing the ballyhoo about "Kampuchean refugees," they have recently been vigorously fanning a fabrication about some kind of threat of an attack on Thailand by Vietnam via Kampuchean territory.

A recent U.S. State Department press statement speaks, without producing any proof--according to the Washington POST, in the absence of "hard evidence"--of "major concentrations of Vietnamese troops" on the Kampuchean-Thai border and even of an attack being prepared by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. Moreover this document from official Washington contains the impudent demand that the "Vietnamese Government and the Soviet Government which supports it" "renounce actions threatening Thailand's security and territorial integrity." This slander was immediately seized on by Beijing. The XINHUA AGENCY, adding something of its own to Washington's "canard," talks provocatively of the alleged "shelling of Thai territory by Vietnamese troops."

What is the real situation in that region? According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, in late January--the situation has undergone no substantial changes since then--the total number of "Kampuchean refugees" in special camps in Thailand was about 144,000. Most of them, as Western journalists themselves testify, arrived in Thailand from regions controlled by surviving remnants of counterrevolutionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gangs.

The situation on the Kampuchean-Thai border is also being presented in distorted form. What is the real state of affairs there? On one side of the border is Thailand, which has not experienced the horrors of war--a country with a population of 45 million; on the other side is Kampuchea, where the first steps are being taken toward national rebirth and about 4.5 million people have survived. As for the PRK regular Army and the Vietnamese People's Army subunits which are temporarily stationed on Kampuchean territory at the request of the republic's legitimate government, their total strength, even according to the Western press' own assessments, is considerably less than that of the Thai Armed Forces. Slanderous assertions on the allegedly increased threat of an SRV "military attack" on neighboring countries are exposed as provocative not only by PRK and SRV representatives but even by the Western press itself.

Nonetheless imperialist and expansionist forces are continuing to interfere in a sovereign state's internal affairs on every possible pretext. [paragraph continues]

Western and Chinese secret services are sending mercenaries into Kampuchean territory and supplying the counterrevolutionaries with weapons, ammunition and much more. A recently published PRK Foreign Ministry statement cites numerous cases of incursions by Thai ships and planes into the country's territorial waters and airspace and shellings of Kampuchean territory, and also cases of the creation of special subunits of Thai mercenaries and Pol Pot followers, which are operating between the Thai region of Aranyaprathet and the Kampuchean provincial center of Battambang. This document indicates the Thai authorities' clear connivance with counterrevolutionary gangs in their use of Thai territory for raids into the PRK.

Late last year in Bangkok Washington's and Beijing's secret services endeavored to knock together an anti-PRK "united front" from Kampuchean counterrevolutionary emigres of all hues. The main reason for the failure of this venture is that the Pol Pots and Lon Nols and their ilk, who have been cast onto the garbage heap of history, represent Kampuchea's yesterday. As London's THE TIMES put it, it is not for them to "reverse the wheel of history."

Why are deliberate lies being exaggerated and the propaganda campaign whipped up? Under cover of the ballyhoo about the "Vietnamese threat" the U.S. military-industrial complex has not only expressed its readiness to grant military aid to Southeast Asian countries but has already begun large-scale deliveries of weapons and combat hardware to a number of states in the region. Thus last year alone U.S. military deliveries to Thailand increased fourfold, reaching $400 million. Imperialist circles are trying to pressure the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which includes Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, with a view to turning it into a bellicose, anticommunist bloc--a political bloc at first, and perhaps later a military bloc, which would be spearheaded against the socialist countries of Indochina. The meeting of ASEAN and ECC foreign ministers which has just finished in Kuala Lumpur adopted--under clear pressure from Western representatives--documents which rehash the American assessments of the situation in Kampuchea and on the Thai-Kampuchean border and which contain attacks on USSR and SRV policy. Maneuvers are being undertaken with a view to reviving SEATO and knocking together proimperialist "alliances" on a "Pacific Ocean" foundation.

These steps, which lead to the wrecking of the relaxation of tension and of growing cooperation in Souhteast Asia, are supported by Chinese expansionist circles. Thus Beijing is calling openly for the maintenance of the U.S. military presence in the region and makes no secret of its satisfaction with the fact that the ASEAN countries still "do not recognize" the PRK, Chen Ze, PRC vice minister of foreign trade, has declared China's readiness to sell weapons to ASEAN countries, Thailand in particular, and also to "defend" them against "Vietnamese aggression." A PRC military delegation visited Bangkok last December. Beijing's calculations here are simple. In the tense situation which is being fueled in Southeast Asia, Chinese strategists are gambling mainly on the exacerbation of contradictions between the socialist countries of Indochina on the one hand and the ASEAN Five on the other. In the event of the outbreak of a protracted conflict, Beijing sees the outcome as the weakening of both sides, and therefore the creation of favorable conditions for the implementation of its own far-reaching expansionist plans with regard to Southeast Asia.

One of the main aims of the ballyhoo over the so-called "Kampuchean problem" is to distract the world public's attention from the real and serious threat to peace and the peoples' security in Southeast Asia posed by the Chinese expansionists.

Despite the initiatives and constructive position of the SRV, Beijing crudely and unilaterally broke off the second round of talks on the normalization of Vietnamese-Chinese relations. This is further evidence of Beijing's policy of hegemonism and expansionism. China is backing up its diplomacy with threats. [paragraph continues]

Recently three more divisions and a large quantity of military equipment, including long-range artillery, missiles, tanks and aircraft, were moved up to the Vietnam border where a half-million strong grouping of Chinese forces has been stationed since last spring. Beijing has massed 15 divisions and 6 army corps on the Chinese-Vietnamese border. Border provocations are also being stepped up.

The concentration of Chinese forces on the Lao and Burmese borders also continues. The chief areas of constant hostile armed actions are the northern provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the states of Shan and Kachin in Burma and also outlying provinces in Thailand populated by national minorities. Beijing is openly threatening to teach Indochina a "second lesson." At a closed session of the Standing Committee of the CCP Central Committee's Military Commission [sovet]--the Japanese paper MAINICHI reported--PRC State Council Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping set out a plan for a possible armed offensive against China's neighors. Last September the Hong Kong press published secret Chinese military documents revealing three aggression options under consideration--this time involving the air force and the navy.

According to one of these, Laos, situated at the junction of the borders with Vietnam, Burma and Thailand, has been chosen as a "corridor." The plan presupposes the occupation of north Laos and the formation there of a government "allied to Beijing"--or more precisely, a puppet government. Beijing strategists reckon that this will require an army of more than 1 million, that is, almost twice as many as were sent against the SRV last spring. And we are talking here about Laos which has a population of around 3.5 million only. In this connection it is interesting to recall that, since the sixties, China has been laying a whole network of strategic highways in north Laos which facilitates the large-scale transfer of forces and hardware from the south China province of Yunnan into the central and southern regions of Laos and also into Vietnam, Burma, Thailand and Kampuchea. According to a secret plan option that has become public knowledge, the next strike would be against Vietnam. But who would rule out a change in the direction of the "main strike"?

As the foreign press reports, the recent period has seen greater activity in Burma and Thailand on the part of Beijing's "fifth column" in the shape of Huaqiao organizations and armed detachments of various separatists and Maoists who, as everyone knows, have long had close ties with Chinese secret services. It is known that training camps are operating in the south China province of Yunnan. They train mercenaries who are dispatched onto the territory of China's southern neighbors.

The facts show that the PRC leadership adheres to the strategic and tactical expansionist line vis-a-vis the Southeast Asian countries formulated by the "great helmsman." A map published in the PRC in 1954 includes Burma, Laos, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and northeast India among territories China has "temporarily lost." In a secret speech at an August 1965 session of the CCP Central Committee Politburo Mao Zedong set out a program for Chinese expansion, saying: "We must get hold of Southeast Asia without fail." And again he named as primary objectives Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore.... At the beginning of the seventies Mao Zedong stated that it would take China between 8 and 15 years to reach "the strategically important shores of the Strait of Malacca and the Singapore Strait." A recent handbook published in Beijing, entitled "China. General Information," reasserts the PRC's territorial claims on its neighbors.

Certain circles in the developing countries of Southeast Asia clearly underestimate the extent of the Chinese expansionists' real threat to the peoples of the area.

Beijing's aggressive course is not only directed against Socialist Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. The Beijing hegemonists, egged on by the U.S. imperialists, are forming a mailed fist [bronirovannyy kulak] also for militarist adventures against other independent countries of Southeast Asia.

Peace and security in this immense region, with a population of around 400 million, can only be insured by resolutely rebuffing the dangerous plans of imperialism and expansionism, by creating good neighborliness and peaceful coexistence, consolidating international detente and giving concrete expression to the idea of transforming Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, independence and neutrality.

LIU SHAOQI 1948 ARTICLE ASSAILING U.S. IMPERIALISM CITED

OW131646 [Editorial Report OW] Moscow in Mandarin to China at 1230 GMT on 12 March broadcast 5.5 minute excerpts from a Liu Shaoqi article written in 1948 entitled "Internationalism and Nationalism" assailing U.S. imperialism.

The same program on 13 March broadcast the two following Liu Shaoqi writings from 1952: 1. text of his 21 July cable to the chairman of the Soviet Association for Cultural Contacts with Foreign Countries, congratulating the USSR on completion of a canal connecting the Volga and the Don rivers (1 min); 2. an excerpt from a 14 February speech made at a meeting commemorating the second signing anniversary of the Soviet-Chinese treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance, hailing Sino-Soviet friendship and the significance of the treaty (4.5 min).

JAPANESE RESOLUTIONS ON NORTHERN ISLANDS, AFGHANISTAN RAPPED

OW151429 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1400 GMT 14 Mar 80 OW

[Anatolyev commentary]

[Text] The Japanese House of Representatives passed two resolutions on 13 March which can only be described as an attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. Needless to say, it is an unrealistic and futile attempt in both cases.

In one of the resolutions, house members repeat the same old, unfounded charges about a Soviet military buildup on Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan islands, trying in vain to prove that these islands belong to Japan. The resolution totally disregards historical facts and international agreements. While its planners pretend that they represent the will of the Japanese people, the will of the Soviet people and international agreements point up something altogether different. Based on the will of the Soviet people and international documents dealing with postwar problems, the Presidium of the Soviet Union in a decree dated 2 February 1946 proclaimed that the Kurile Islands belonged to the RSFSR, one of the 15 SSR's of the USSR.

What then was the purpose in adopting this resolution? The resolution urges the Japanese Government to firmly establish stable and peaceful relations with the Soviet Union in an appeal, contradicting the spirit of the resolution, that can only be described as dedicated to further fanning anti-Soviet hysteria.

The next question is why this resolution was adopted. There is no doubt that it has something to do with domestic politics. At present, a militarist mood is gaining momentum in Japan. Some Diet members and ranking defense agency officials are anxious to have legislation approved to deal with "national emergencies," urging a major buildup in the strength of the self-defense forces. All their efforts are being made under the pretext of a "Soviet military threat." Under the same pretext, they further argue that Japan should build up its naval power for blockading Tsushima, Tsugaru and Soya straits near Soviet territory when necessary.

The second resolution adopted by the Japanese House of Representatives demands that the Soviet Union withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. This action totally ignores the rights of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, a sovereign state. Three successive Afghan administrations asked the USSR for assistance under the friendship and good-neighborliness treaty on as many as 14 occasions. The presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is a matter that concerns the rights of the two countries.

The planners of the second resolution thus committed an intervention in the Soviet-Afghanistan relations. If they are so interested in Afghanistan's destiny, they might as well seek assurances from the United States, Pakistan and China that they will discontinue all forms of intervention in the internal affairs of the Afghan Government and people, or ask their own government not to increase its aid to Pakistan, which is allowing its territory to serve as a base for launching interventionist operations against Afghanistan. The planners of this resolution apparently ignored the fact that present on the soil of their own country are troops and military bases of a foreign nation.

The two resolutions adopted by the Japanese House of Representatives on 13 March thus run counter to the desire for good-neighborly relations between the Soviet and Japanese peoples and contradict the present reality.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S MOSCOW VISIT

Gromyko-Dost Report

LD171139 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 4 LD

["In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] A talk between Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and Dost, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] foreign minister, which passed in an atmosphere of friendship and full mutual understanding was held 14 March.

On the Soviet side taking part in the talk were: Ogarkov, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, first USSR deputy defense minister and marshal of the Soviet Union; Korniyenko, first USSR deputy foreign minister; and Zemskov, deputy USSR foreign minister.

On the Afghan side taking part were: (Bahar), director general of the economic department of the DRA Foreign Ministry, and (Danesh-Jor) DRA charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR.

Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko gave a luncheon in Dost's honor. Greeting the guest, Comrade Gromyko said:

This is not our first meeting since the day when, thanks to the efforts of patriotic forces occupying anti-imperialist positions and the positions of defending Afghanistan's independence and social progress, the April revolution in Afghanistan entered a new stage in its development.

We well know about the great and difficult tasks which the Afghan people must cope with, as they wage, under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party headed by its general secretary, Babrak Karmal, a courageous struggle for the development of a new society in Afghanistan. On this path they must overcome the ruinous consequences of Amin's rule and repulse the attacks of external aggression and internal counterrevolution directed by imperialist circles of the United States, the Chinese hegemonists and their minions from among elements of world reaction.

There can and should be only one outcome of this struggle: safeguarding the Afghan people's right to self-determined and independent development, consolidation and deepening of the social and political gains of the April revolution, creation of conditions for a peaceful and creative life for Afghanistan's working people.

The Afghan people are not alone in their fight. On their side are the sympathies of the progressive peace-loving forces throughout the world and the international solidarity of the countries of the socialist commonwealth including the USSR. These are forces which the organizers and inspirers of the aggression against Afghanistan cannot fail to take into account.

It is thus no coincidence that some people began to talk of the need to seek political ways of solving the questions pertaining to Afghanistan. Well, one can only welcome this. Leonid Brezhnev in his recent public speeches gave an accurate exposition of the views of the Soviet Union on this subject.

But at the same time, Andrey Gromyko emphasized, it must be made clear that any attempts at deciding the affairs of the Afghan people behind their backs, any plans encroaching on the sovereignty of the Afghan state or ignoring its lawful government and failing to guarantee Afghanistan against interference from outside in its internal affairs will remain unsuccessful. Such attempts and plans have absolutely no future.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally I wish to assure you, Comrade Dost--and through you, the entire leadership of the DRA--that it can continue to count on the Soviet Union's all-round aid and support.

The firm and principled line being pursued by our countries and the specific actions to rebuff aggressive acts and hostile moves with regard to Afghanistan on the international political fronts are the guarantee that the cause of the April revolution will be victorious.

The talks held today have reaffirmed the complete unity--I repeat, complete unity--of the sides' views on all the issues discussed. The imperialist forces hostile to Afghanistan and their accomplices must be aware of this.

In his reply speech S.M. Dost stressed that this time his arrival coincides with the eve of the celebrations of the 110th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth, which will be marked not only in the Soviet Union but also throughout the world and which reminds us once again of Lenin's ideas and mankind's future.

The Great October Socialist Revolution, which has had a tremendous impact on all the world, all countries and all mankind, was accomplished under the leadership of Lenin and the Communist Party. The influence of the October Revolution has, of course, also been apparent in Afghanistan--a country neighboring Russia.

It was precisely under the influence of the Great October Socialist Revolution that the struggle by patriotic, progressive forces developed in Afghanistan--as a result of which struggle a revolution later, in April 1978, took place in our country. Our party was able to mobilize the masses for a revolution in a country that was backward and semifeudal and where the existing regime could not insure any future for the people.

In his reply speech, Shah Mohammad Dost emphasized that following the revolution's victory the country's new leadership adopted effective and specific measures to improve the life of the people. However, subsequently, as a result of Amin's ruinous actions, the development of revolution in Afghanistan deviated from the correct path.

Being a minion of internal reaction, of imperialist circles and Beijing, Amin spared no effort in order to turn Afghanistan back to its past and to turn the country into a colony of imperialism. But the healthy forces of our party, headed by Comrade Babrak Karmal, saw this danger and in good time took measures to eliminate it. Thus a beginning was laid for a new second stage of development of our revolution. In this way the party managed to wreck the plans of U.S. imperialism, Beijing hegemonists and internal reaction, to deal a blow to plans linked by reaction with events taking place in Afghanistan.

Now when the imperialists are forced to recognize that their calculations have been destroyed, they are starting to devise various "plans" with regard to Afghanistan, such as its "neutralization" and so forth. Resolutely rebuffing this foreign interference, we have let it be understood clearly by everyone and especially these circles that we will not permit anyone to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs

I would like to express the opinion of our country's leadership, that the Soviet Union's all-round and disinterested aid is of tremendous importance for the consolidation of the successes of the April revolution and for the creation of a new, progressive system in Afghanistan.

At present the aid from the limited Soviet military contingent, which was sent to Afghanistan at the request of its leadership, and the Soviet Union's all-round aid as a whole are exceptionally important for the development of our country along the path opened up by the April revolution.

Tracing the history of the relations between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan from the time the foundation for these relations was laid by the great Lenin to the present day, we can say with complete justification that the Soviet Union has been and remains the true friend of Afghanistan's people.

So I would like once again to express on behalf of the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee profound gratitude to the Soviet Union for its comprehensive assistance--political, moral, material and other, for all the tremendous assistance that the Soviet land gives us.

Present at the luncheon were: Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR ministers and other officials.

On the same day, Shah Mohammad Dost left Moscow for home. Seeing him off at the airport were comrade Gromyko and other officials. Among those that saw him off was (Danesh-Jor), the DRA charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR.

Dost Departure Remarks

LD142038 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1930 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14 (TASS)--I am confident that good relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will grow stronger and expand with every passing day, Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost told a Soviet television correspondent prior to his departure by air from Moscow.

The talks with USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Gromyko, as always, passed in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere which fully accords with the relations existing between our countries. I believe that the talks will serve the cause of further developing friendly relations between our states, parties and peoples.

The Afghan foreign minister was in Moscow 13-14 March on a friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

KARMAL CONDEMNS "HATCHING RIOTS" AGAINST AFGHAN REVOLUTION

LD151304 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

["Statement by Babrak Karmal in Interview"--TASS headline]

[Text] Beirut, March 15, TASS--The Beijing leadership, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan acting on behalf of international imperialism and reaction have already long been hatching plots against the Afghan revolution. Gangs of mercenaries are under intensive training with their aid in 50 military camps in Pakistan's territory, they are armed and sent across the border into Afghanistan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Babrak Karmal said in an interview with the local AL-HURIYAH weekly. These forces, he stressed, have long been making plans of turning Afghanistan into a base for struggle against the national liberation forces and progress in that area but Afghanistan will never become a stronghold of reaction.

The Afghan people is confidently marching to its victory, basing itself on the fraternal disinterested aid of its great friend--the Soviet Union, which has been permanently giving and continues giving great aid to our country. From the very outset the Soviet Union has always been on the side of the forces of peace, democracy, progress and socialism. It has given all round support for the revolutionary movements of other peoples, the Soviet Union's aid to Afghanistan is enormous, Babrak Karmal went on to say. It has built 70 per cent of all industrial enterprises and cultural institutions.

As far as the Soviet military aid is concerned, it has been granted for defending the independence and unity of Afghanistan when a threat emerged of imperialist aggression from the outside. This is in full conformity with the will of the Afghan people and Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

In conclusion Babrak Karmal pointed out that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan declares for a just settlement of the Middle East conflict on the basis of withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories and restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. Afghanistan resolutely condemns the Camp David agreements and As-Sadat's capitulatory course.

AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTS 'DOCUMENTS' FROM U.S. EMBASSY

LD161400 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 16, TASS--The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has sent a note to the Embassy of the United States in Kabul in which it officially demanded that all the documents, pertaining to collaboration of the accomplice of internal reaction and imperialist circles Amin, with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States be put at the disposal of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

As is well known to the Government of the United States, the note stresses, Amin was a traitor of the people of Afghanistan. He subjected the population to terror, imprisoned peaceful residents, exterminated thousands of innocent Afghans--representative of all strata of the working people and the Moslem population of the country. Amin had plundered a considerable part of the historical and cultural legacy of the country, the result of the work of the Afghan people over a thousand years.

In collaboration with imperialism and international reaction he imperiled freedom, independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. Amin killed the former General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Nur Mohammad Taraki, who was the legitimate head of state. Amin usurped party and state power.

Amin, it is stressed, twice visited the United States and was active there as the chairman of the union of Afghan students. The relevant authorities of the United States have sufficient information about Amin's anti-national and anti-Afghan activities, they also know of his links and contacts with CIA's agents.

Now when in the course of the new stage of the April revolution Amin's anti-popular and anti-national activities are being disclosed, when the peoples of Afghanistan and the whole world discerned his traitorous essence, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan asks the competent authorities of the United States to put at its disposal the data and documents on Amin's former activities as a CIA spy and agent so as to enable the Afghan people and state bodies of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to know more about Amin's activities, as a conspirator. In accordance with the legitimate wishes of the people of Afghanistan and to make fuller the file of materials about that killer, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan also demanded the documents that disclose Amin's links with influential circles of the United States, particularly with the CIA, in assassinating Nur Mohammad Taraki.

Commenting on the note, the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY points out that the Afghan people demands that the U.S. Government should give a positive reply as soon as possible to the legitimate appeal of Afghanistan's Government.

AFGHANISTAN'S RATEBZAD INTERVIEWED IN MOSCOW

LD142156 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1616 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow--"Afghan-Soviet friendship is eternal and inviolable," said Anahita Ratebzad, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Politburo member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of education of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in an interview with a TASS correspondent. She is in Moscow on her way to the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

The friendship between our countries, emphasized Ratebzad, was built on foundations laid down by the leader of the world's proletariat, the great Lenin, and by the progressive leaders of Afghanistan. She recalled that the first treaty between the two countries was signed as early as in 1921. In December 1978 a treaty of friendship, goodneighborly relations and cooperation was concluded between the USSR and Afghanistan. This treaty strengthened Soviet-Afghan relations still further. Despite the continued attempts of imperialist reaction and internal counterrevolutionary elements, noted Ratebzad, the Afghan people, with the support of the international help and backing of the Soviet Union and of other countries of the socialist commonwealth, as well as all the progressive forces in the world, are confidently advancing along their chosen path, which has been mapped out by the April revolution.

The enemies of the Afghan people tries to drown our revolution in blood, said Ratebzad. Imperialists and their small handful of traitors in Afghanistan planned to organize in our country a bloody slaughter, similar to the one which at one time had been committed in Chile. But fortunately, these plans were in vain.

At present, the enemies of Afghanistan are stepping up the campaign of lies and slander aimed at our revolution and at frustrating the achievements of our people, said Ratebzad.

U.S. imperialists, accompanied by Chinese hegemonists, she stressed, are continuing to weave the mesh of intrigues and plots against Afghanistan and its people. In Pakistan they are organizing armed bands which they send into Afghan territory.

However, all these attempts of the reaction are doomed to failure, stated Ratebzad. This is guaranteed by the heroism and courage of the Afghan people, who have stood up staunchly in defense of the achievements of the April revolution, as well as by the solidarity of the friends of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE CONFISCATED PROPERTY TO AFGHAN OWNERS

LD170934 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 17, TASS--The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has distributed today a statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on the return to the Afghan citizens of the property which was illegally confiscated from them in the period of the rule of the Amin regime.

In the statement it is said that the Finance Ministry has specified the quantity and whereabouts of the confiscated property and took the decision to return it to the lawful owners, having relevant documents confirming their right to this property.

In accordance with the decision of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, those citizens who left the homeland and who come out against the national interests of the Afghan people, will not have back their confiscated property, which becomes the state property.

Those persons misled by hostile propaganda, but who became aware of their guilt and who during a month will return to Afghanistan are to have their property back, the statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan stresses in conclusion.

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER CITED ON KABUL RIOTS

LD141950 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The mass media in the West continues the hue and cry about the events in Afghanistan. In the meantime in Kabul a special correspondent of Soviet television and radio, (Leonid Zorotarevskiy) has interviewed a member of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Sarwar Yuresh. Here now is the interview: [begin recording in English]

[(Zorotarevskiy)] Comrade Yuresh would you kindly tell me what are the latest results of investigation into the actual reasons and forms of the riots and violences that took place in Kabul on 22 February?

[Yuresh] Well, with regard to your question I should mention that as a result of the victory of the April revolution in Afghanistan and as the result of the victory of the people's revolution in Afghanistan, certain circles in the United States of America together with the Beijing leadership particularly staged a plot against the revolution of Afghanistan. Despite the fact that these activities were given a very strong rebuff on the part of the people of Afghanistan they didn't stop their pernicious plots against Afghanistan. Therefore recently on 21 and 22 February a number of U.S., Chinese and Pakistani hirelings who were (?profusely) infiltrated into Kabul through Afghan-Pakistani border [words indistinct] carried out provocative actions. Pakistani, American and Chinese agents (?rushed) to the bazaars and shamelessly began to loot state organizations, government and private property, killing policemen and others and disturbing security and violating curfew regulations. Actually, they launched an armed aggression against the state, committing atrocities unprecedented in the nation's capital today.

The terrorists, criminals and traitors were caught redhanded with a large number of machineguns, rifles, explosives, including hand grenades of American, British, Pakistani and Chinese manufacture.

[Zorotarevskiy] And in relation to that, Comrade Yuresh, would you kindly tell me what of the measures taken already, or to be taken in the near future, to prevent possible repetition of such riots and violences in Kabul and other parts of the country?

[Yuresh] Well some measures have already been taken and others to prevent a repetition of such provocative actions not only in Kabul but in the whole country, these measures have been taken by security forces, the Army and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and also by the patriotic elements and people of Kabul and the whole country. [end recording]

AFGHAN INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION

LD161421 Moscow TASS in English 1407 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 16, TASS--The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has circulated today a report of the Ministry of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which says that the security forces are fully in control of the situation, they maintain law and order and defend lives and property of the citizens from encroachment of hired assassins and robbers linked with imperialism and traitors of the motherland.

In connection with the further normalization of the situation in the capital, the Ministry of the Interior has decided to reduce the curfew from 10 hours P.M. to 4.30 A.M.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DENOUNCING ENEMIES OF AFGHAN REVOLUTION

LD161422 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 16, TASS--The participants in a meeting, held at the military academy, have strongly denounced the policy of the United States, Britain, Chinese chauvinists and Pakistan against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The academy students and teachers adopted a resolution expressing readiness to defend the motherland from aggressive intentions of enemies of the working people, who are trying to encroach upon the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Afghanistan. The Afghan people, who are following the lines of construction of a new society, will emerge victorious, despite all designs of internal and external enemies, speakers stressed.

Aggressive actions and conspiracies of enemies of the working people of Afghanistan will be brought to naught. The flunkeys of imperialism and their mercenaries in the region seek to sow strife between the peoples of our country, but their plans are not destined to materialize. This is said in a resolution which was adopted by the participants in a mass meeting of the Kabul residents, which was held at the Kabul Municipal Council. Clergymen, working people of the Afghan capital expressed firm determination to give a rebuff to designs of reaction against the gains of the April revolution, firm support to the measures being taken by the leadership of the country in defending the national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR COMMENTARY QUOTED ON ANTI-SOVIET PROPOSAL

LD141622 Moscow TASS in English 1601 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 14, TASS--The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghan people resolutely reject the inventions of Western propaganda directed at undermining relations of friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. In a commentary circulated here, BAKHTAR agency lists among such concoctions the remarks by the American Senator Bentsen who had alleged that Soviet servicemen in Afghanistan had taken part in massacres of the population. This statement, the commentary stresses, is a new dirty fabrication pursuing the aim of smearing the Soviet Union's policy.

It is quite obvious, the commentary notes further, that the Afghan people's successes in repulsing the imperialist aggression and building the new life are not to the liking of American imperialism, NATO, the Beijing hegemonists, the reactionary circles of Pakistan and other countries. They also do not like the fact that the Afghan people is choosing its own friends and for this reason are trying to pose as "protectors" of its interests.

It is an open secret, the agency stresses, that the sole aim of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan is to render assistance to the Afghan people in repulsing the outside aggression, to protect the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Friendship between the DRA and the USSR has withstood the test of time. The bonds of brotherhood, filled with the friendly feelings of the peoples of the two countries, are unbreakable. No absurd inventions and foul lies can smear the friendship between the Afghan and Soviet peoples, the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY commentary stresses.

'PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION' CONTINUING IN KABUL

LD141516 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[V. Bazilevich Kabul dispatch]

[Text] The process of normalization is continuing and the daily activities go on. However, the people understand that there will be no calm while the counterrevolutionaries of various leanings are nurturing plans to drown the revolution in Afghanistan in blood. In this difficult period the working people of Afghanistan recognize their responsibility for the fate of the country. The whole of working Afghanistan welcomes the December events which put an end to the dictatorial regime, and as always the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was an organizer and inspirer of the victory.

The enemies of the April revolution are not quieting down, are harboring plans to disrupt the peaceful life of the country, and to push it off its progressive path. One such attempt was made recently at the end of February. But on that occasion the security organs, with the help of the working people of Kabul, rebuffed the bandits who were striving to provoke mass disorders in the capital.

We visited the (Bagrany) textile factory. The factory is working in an orderly fashion without stoppages. The work of the comrades is (?overseen) by the workers themselves and they will not allow the enemies to disrupt the peaceful life of Afghan working people. In an interview with our correspondent, (Mohamed Zafar), secretary of the factory committee, said: The April revolution gave power to us, the workers. We have many difficulties. We, the party activists, are doing everything to improve the life of our people and to put an end once and for all to Afghanistan's backwardness. The Afghan people regards the USSR with a profound liking. The Soviet Union has done much to help us. The economic aid of our Soviet comrades is invaluable. We are grateful to Soviet people who, in a difficult time for Afghanistan, put up a shield against imperialism and reaction, stated (Mohammed Zafar).

'OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS' DISMISS RUMORS OF INSTABILITY IN KABUL

LD141845 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Here is a dispatch from Viktor Bazilevich, our correspondent in Kabul, on life returning to normal in Afghanistan. A series of steps taken by the Karmal government has helped consolidate the democratic freedoms and laid the groundwork for economic developments. Industrial enterprises are working and industrial expansion is planned. The authorities are helping the peasants in every way. The public has welcomed the news of the USSR's decision to send seeds and farm machinery. "Outside forces, however, are trying to hinder peaceful and democratic development of Afghanistan. The situation in the areas bordering on Pakistan remain tense. Bands of terrorists continue to penetrate into Afghanistan from Pakistani territory. They are being trained and armed by the intelligence services of the United States, China, Egypt and Pakistan." Foreign Minister Dost demanded in a letter to the United Nations that an end be put to the armed interference in the affairs of his country.

"The limited Soviet contingent is helping the Afghan Army and the people repulse the aggression of the outside forces. It was introduced into the country on the request of the Afghan Government and in conformity with the bilateral treaty of friendship and with the UN Charter. While commenting on the presence of the Soviet contingent in Afghanistan, the Western propaganda has produced heaps of lies and slander. It claims, for one, that the Soviet Union's help is nothing but an attempt to occupy the country. Rumors are being spread that the situation in Kabul is unstable. These and other lies are being refuted by objective observers who come on a visit to Afghanistan. Among them, there are members of a representative delegation of foreign lawyers. They had meetings with many Afghan officials and private persons."

AFGHANISTAN 'RETURNING TO NORMAL', PEOPLE ON 'GUARD'

LD151930 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] In Afghanistan, the situation is gradually returning to normal. Plants and factories are working, shops are keeping their usual hours but the Afghan people realize they must be on constant guard because the country's enemies have not abandoned their plans to eliminate the gains of the April revolution. However, this from Viktor Bazilevich, our correspondent in Afghanistan:

Martial law has been imposed in Afghanistan and a curfew has been introduced, the streets patrolled by tanks and armored vehicles. Security units are wiping out the mercenary gangs that, armed with American and Chinese-made weapons, were looting and burning homes, killing civilians. During this trying period, the Afghan working people comprehend their responsibility for the destiny of their country. The working class is becoming a reliable base of the revolution. The Afghan workers welcomed, with great enthusiasm, the April revolution of 1978, when power came into the hands of the working people. For the first time in Afghan history they got a real chance to changing [as heard] the backward social pattern. The workers have become the real masters of their destiny and have received an opportunity to work for the good of all the nation.

The past 2 years weren't easy ones. The counterrevolutionary forces are still continuing to interfere with the peaceful life of the Afghans. The times of the Amin rule and repressions hit at the working class, too. Many militants were killed and thrown into jail. However, the workers were not to be intimidated. The working class hailed the December events which put an end to the dictatorial regime. But the enemies of the April revolution didn't relinquish attempts to disrupt the peaceful life of Afghanistan and deflect it from the progressive road. One such attempt was made recently, at the end of February. But on that occasion the security organs, with the help of the working people of Kabul, rebuffed the bandits who were striving to provoke mass disorders in the capital.

EGYPTIAN SPY RECOUNTS FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

LD151316 Moscow TASS in English 1247 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 15, TASS--After the victory of the new stage of the April revolution Afghanistan has become a target of fierce malicious attacks, conspiracies and provocative sallies by U.S. imperialist circles, Beijing hegemonists and their henchmen from among world reaction. An irrefutable evidence is now available that the U.S. CIA, subversive organizations of Maoists, Pakistan and Egypt actively participated in the events that took place in Kabul on February 22, points out a statement issued by the DRA's security bodies and circulated here by the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY. Recently in Konarha Province the DRA's security bodies arrested Zia'ddin, a citizen of Egypt, a CIA agent, who penetrated Afghanistan's territory for the establishment of contacts with terrorists and for the gathering of espionage information. At a press conference in Kabul the spy fully confessed his criminal actions and gave numerous facts of direct participation by Americans, Britons, Chinese and reactionary circles of Pakistan and Egypt in subversive activities against the Afghan people.

Egypt's ruling circles as represented by As-Sadat who betrayed the interests of the Arabs, instead of upholding the rights of the Egyptian people and the fraternal Arab people of Palestine from Zionists' encroachments, came out, together with U.S. imperialism and reaction, against the Afghan revolution and the legitimate Government of the DRA, the statement points out. As-Sadat practises his interference in Afghanistan under the "defence of Islam" slogan while, himself signing the Camp David collusion with Israeli Zionists. Under the self-same slogan of "defence of Islam" As-Sadat, the statement says further, infiltrates spies and killers into our country. This is actually nothing other than the defence of the interests of the enemies of Islam, i.e. international imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The statement is calling on the Afghan people to issue a fitting rebuff to the intrigues of the forces of imperialism and reaction that weave conspiracies against Moslem peoples.

CEAUSESCU, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DISCUSS AFGHANISTAN

LD141336 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Bucharest, March 14, TASS--President Ceausescu of Romania has received British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington now staying in Romania on an official visit.

AGERPRES reports that during the meeting the two sides discussed the state of Romanian-British relations and expressed satisfaction with the development of cooperation between the two countries. They also analysed the state of tension and conflicts in different parts of the world.

After the meeting Lord Carrington said that in his opinion the two countries do not differ greatly in their appraisal of the world situation. He said that on a broad plane the two sides make identical conclusions. He said he had set forth to the Romanian side a proposal for "neutralizing" Afghanistan.

As is known the British version of the plan for so-called "neutralization" presupposes a change of the existent system in the DRA [Democratic Republic of Afghanistan] and means interference in the internal affairs of the sovereign state of Afghanistan.

At the same time THE DAILY TELEGRAPH says that despite a considerable similarity of the views of the negotiators, the Romanian leaders do not wish to be involved in any Western plan for establishing a "neutral" Afghanistan.

TANJUG CITED: TITO'S CONDITION NO WORSE

LD161626 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Belgrade, March 16, TASS--It was announced by the team of medics treating President Tito of Yugoslavia that the president did not have signs of a further worsening of pneumonia, TANJUG agency reports. Heart weakness is expressed less and disturbances in the functions of other organs remain, the agency said. Intensive treatment is being continued.

YUGOSLAV TRADE UNION DELEGATION VISITS USSR

LD152320 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1700 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] As we have already reported, a delegation of the Central Council of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia, headed by Mika Spiliak, is visiting Moscow. The visitors have had talks with a delegation of Soviet trade unions, headed by Aleksey Shibayev, AUCCTU chairman. The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Yesterday the Yugoslav delegation visited the Leninist Komsomol motor works, the enterprise which produces the Moskvich, a car well known in Yugoslavia. The visitors were acquainted with the work of the factory trade union organization and inspected the works and then attended a meeting with Moscow's trade union activists.

In a speech to those present Mika Spiljak highly assessed the results of cooperation between our countries' trade unions and spoke about the work done by the Yugoslav trade unions.

The head of the Yugoslav delegation presented the Soviet trade unions with a copper etching representing a map of Yugoslavia with the coats of arms of all the republics, made by workers of a Yugoslav copper smelting works. The meeting was attended by Marko Orlandic, Yugoslavia ambassador to the Soviet Union. Today the visitors are inspecting the Olympic games facilities in Moscow.

Meeting with Shibayev

ID162334 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1730 GMT 16 Mar 80 ID

[Text] As we have reported, a meeting was held last week in Moscow between a delegation of the Yugoslav trade unions headed by Mika Spiljak, president of the Central Council of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia, and trade union activitists of our capital city.

Greeting the guests at this meeting, Aleksey Shibayev, AUCCTU chairman, stressed that during the friendly visit of the delegation of the Central Council of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia to the Soviet Union, opinions were exchanged on Soviet-Yugoslav trade union links; on the prospects for their further development and also on a number of questions regarding the international trade union movement which are of interest to both sides. The negotiations passed off in a good, open and comradely atmosphere. The AUCCTU chairman expressed the conviction that the visit by the Yugoslav delegation to the Soviet Union and the meetings and talks held would be a new stimulus for the further development and promotion of links between the working people of the two countries and their trade unions.

In his speech, Mika Spiljak stressed that cooperation between the trade unions of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union is developing successfully. The friendship between our two peoples, Comrade Spiljak said, began during a bloody war. We were together during the most difficult moments. Today, our relations are founded upon agreements on the promotion of cooperation between the two countries attained during contacts at the highest level between Comrades Brezhnev and Tito. The president of the Central Council of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia said that for many years the Soviet Union has been Yugoslavia's biggest economic partner and this circumstance is of great significance. Comrade Spiljak expressed the desire that cooperation between the two countries and exchanges of experience between the Soviet and Yugoslav trade unions should continue to develop successfully.

Aleksey Shibayev presented a bust of Vladimir Ilich Lenin as the gift of the Soviet trade unions to the delegation.

On behalf of his delegation, Mika Spiljak presented a copper etching showing a map of Yugoslavia with the coats of arms of the republics. This copper etching was made by workers at a Yugoslav copper smelting works.

HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

ID170948 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Puja, Hungarian foreign minister and member of the MSZMP Central Committee, arrived today in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At the airport the guest was met by Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politbur and USSR foreign minister, and other officials. Among those meeting him was Szueros, Hungarian ambassadorto the USSR.

IVANOV ATTACKS FRG'S GENSCHER FOR ROLE IN AFGHAN PROBLEM

LD170711 Moscow TASS in English 0608 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

["Who Stands To Gain From This?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 17, TASS--TASS political analyst Konstantin Ivanov writes: The FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made a speech in the West German town of Saarbruecken in which he again supported the Washington administration's demagogical demands for a "withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan".

It is noteworthy that under the cover of slogans of the so-called Atlantic solidarity he actually played the role of a lawyer of those influential forces in the United States which are not ceasing their aggressive actions and hostile steps against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. As is known, in recent times Genscher has more than once assumed functions that, it would seem, are not those of the head of an important foreign policy establishment. In any case, nobody has hired Herr Genscher to play the role of an "arbiter" of the destinies of the Afghan people unless, of course, such an unseemly role was prepared for him in Washington, which in the light of the Afghan events is openly provoking an aggravation of tension in the world.

It is right, therefore, to put the following question to the FRG minister of foreign affairs: If he assumes the function of a "go-between" in Afghan affairs then why neither he nor the Carter administration, which Herr Genscher is obviously giving a helping hand, have yet replied to the Soviet Union's proposals concerning guarantees to Afghanistan against outside interference. Ensurement of such guarantees would fully accord with the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

This principled position of the USSR has clearly outlined in recent speeches by the head of the Soviet state Leonid Brezhnev. Expounding on its essence, the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Gromyko pointed out, when addressing the DRA Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost in Moscow recently, that no attempts to settle the affairs of the Afghan people behind its back, no plans concerning the sovereignty of the Afghan state or ignoring its lawful government and not guaranteeing Afghanistan from outside interference into its internal affairs will be successful. Such attempts and plans are utterly prospectless.

On striking the pose of an advocate of the U.S. imperialist policy directed at destroying the Afghan people's revolutionary gains and trying to present a bill to one side, Herr Genscher absolutely refuses to see the grave crimes committed against the people of Afghanistan by the other side--the United States which, as it has been irrefutably proved, jointly with the Beijing hegemonists uses the territory of Pakistan for subversive armed actions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Why doesn't Herr Genscher, who talks at length about the "intrustion into Afghanistan" and deliberately turns a blind eye to Washington's criminal actions, express concern about the real threat to Afghanistan from the bandit formations that get all-round support from the United States? These hirelings of the CIA and enemies of the Afghan people are secretly supplied with arms and military equipment. They organize the murder of absolutely innocent Afghan citizens, burn down whole Afghan villages, conduct a bloody terror and are trying to destroy the national economy and peaceful labour of the Afghan people.

Indeed, as the saying has it, Herr Genscher is unconscious of the beam in his own eye while detecting a mote in the eye of somebody else.

It is absolutely clear that the demagogy to which the FRG foreign minister resorts does not make easier the process of easing international tension and his anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet rhetoric creates additional difficulties on the road of detente.

Herr Genscher has obviously set himself the aim of deluding the world public and whitewashing his NATO partner--the United States, which is pursuing a dangerous and provocative line in international affairs in connection with the events in Afghanistan.

One cannot help noticing yet another matter. In his speech in Saarbruecken Genscher expressed "concern" about the USSR's policy in respect of Yugoslavia. Meantime it is well known that the USSR's policy in this question is embued with a striving, as it has been repeatedly stressed by Soviet leaders, for an extensive and multifaceted cooperation and proceeds from the premise that Soviet-Yugoslav friendship can and must be an influential factor of peace and progress in Europe and beyond it. This friendship is sealed by the blood of the best sons of the peoples of the two countries who gave their lives in the struggle against the fascist plague. Highly evaluating the Soviet Army's liberation role, President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia said: "Friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has deep roots. In the years of the Second World War, in the years of the glorious and difficult epopee of our peoples this friendship was strengthened still further. A sea of blood of the best sons of our peoples was shed in the joint struggle against the fascist invaders."

USSR, FRANCE SIGN SHIPBUILDING CONTRACT

LD142220 Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14, TASS--Major contracts worth a total of 500 million French francs were concluded here today between Soviet Sudoimport and the French firms Entrepose GTM Pour les Travaux Petrolier Maritimes and Union Industrielle et d'Entreprises. Under the contracts the French firms will supply the Soviet Union with two plants to produce stationary platforms to extract oil and gas in the sea shelf. Astrakhan's shipbuilders, the Volga area, will get technological equipment for producing over-water assemblies for such platforms. The supporting parts for the platforms will be built at the shipbuilding yards in Baku, Transcaucasia. Platforms will be able to extract oil and gas from depths of up to 200 metres. It is not the first deal concluded by Sudoimport with French partners. Solid business ties between them have been in existence for many years already. And not only with the French firms. Previously, for instance, a drilling platform was purchased from Finnish firm Rauma Repola, which is currently being tested in the Caspian Sea. The Finnish firm has also received orders for three drilling vessels to operate in Arctic seas. Sudoimport, the TASS correspondent was told in the association, will continue to purchase from West European countries equipment to extract oil and gas from the sea shelf.

Further Details

LD142222 Moscow TASS in English 2121 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14, TASS--Today in the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry a major contract was signed between the all-union Sudoimport Association and French Firms Entrepose GTM Pour les Travaux Petroliers Maritimes and Union Industrielle et d'Entreprises to supply the USSR with two plants to produce stationary platforms to extract oil and gas from sea and ocean shelf. The above contract is concluded in keeping with the long-term programme for a deepening of the economic, industrial and technical cooperation between the USSR and France for 1980-1990, signed by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev and President of the French Republic Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The signing of the contract was attended by USSR Foreign Trade Minister Nikolay Patolichev, Minister of the Gas Industry of the USSR S. Orudzhev and French Ambassador to the Soviet Union Henri Froment-Meurice.

IRANIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS RESULTS NOTED

LD161238 Moscow TASS in English 1204 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 16, TASS--The votes cast at the elections to the first republican parliament of Iran are being counted. The count has been made in 65 electoral districts, and in 31 of them the names of the deputies were announced who collected an absolute majority of votes. In other electoral districts, two or more candidates became known who are to take part in the second round of voting.

IRANIAN TRIBUNALS CONTINUE CASES OF SHAH OFFICIALS

LD161342 Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 16, TASS--Islamic revolutionary tribunals continue considering cases of persons who committed crimes during the shah regime. Sentenced to execution by firing in Qom yesterday were former military commandant of the town Division General Kemal Nezami, in the Homein settlement--two ringleaders of armed terrorist gangs.

It has been announced in Tehran that six activists of the shah regime were sentenced to different terms in prison. Trial is underway in the case of two embezzlers of state property--chief of the financial department of the SAVAK secret police and a teacher of a military school.

MOSCOW PERSIAN ON COOPERATION WITH IRAN IN POWERPLANTS

NC151926 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 15 Mar 80 NC

[Unidentified Radio Moscow economic correspondent's report]

[Text] Dear listeners, a group of Soviet experts recently left Tehran for Esfahan where construction of a 800,000-kw power plant will begin in the near future. The project for the construction of this power plant was drawn up in the Soviet Union. Our economic commentator writes: The construction of a large power plant near Esfahan was decided on for various reasons. First of all, one should mention the shortage of electric power in this rapidly developing industrial region. A new range of industrial units are scheduled to be set up there: One example is the construction of a large oil refinery that is nearing completion. This refinery will produce gasoline, gas oil, fuel oil and other oil products. Using fuel oil on the spot is difficult, and its transportation for use as fuel is costly. The best solution is that this produce will be used as fuel in the powerplant to be constructed. In this powerplant the gas--the pipeline of which is near or passes through the region and which was built with Soviet cooperation--can be used as fuel.

The Esfahan powerplant is not the only project on which Soviet and Iranian constructors cooperate. Construction of the Ramin powerplant near Ahvaz with a 1.2 million-kw output is continuing. The electricity produced by this plant will be used in the oil industry in south Iran and in Tehran. The Ramin powerplant's first turbine, with a capacity of 315,000 kw, has become operational and produces electricity for industry.

The hydroelectric powerplant on the bank of the Aras River bordering the Soviet Union and Iran has been operating for 8 years now. It is jointly owned by the Soviet Union and Iran and supplies electricity to both. A network of powerplants are scheduled to be set up on this border river.

Some time ago Soviet planning organizations prepared the technical and economic documents for the construction of a large powerplant in the Khoda-Afarin bridge area and submitted it to Iran for study. This hydrotechnic installation will include a hydroelectric plant with a 200,000-kw output, half of the turbines of which will provide electricity to Iran and the other half to the Soviet Union.

It is especially worth noting that Soviet organizations have a universal approach to cooperation with Iran in the field of electricity and do not limit themselves only to the installation of powerplants. These powerplants, like any other industrial unit, do not work on their own but should be utilized by the use of vast knowledge and on the basis of today's requirements. Therefore the training of national cadres--Iranian cadres--enjoys an important place in the two countries' cooperation. During the period of joint cooperation, Soviet organizations have trained and prepared over 1,000 Iranian experts both in the field of installing powerplants and in their utilization. In addition, tens of Iranian experts have completed the necessary courses in the largest Soviet thermal powerplants. Soviet engineers and technicians have zealously contributed their full experience to the construction and utilization of power plants at the disposal of Iranians.

Soviet and Iranian cooperation in the field of electricity has a good outlook and bright future which is based on the positive result of cooperation in this field on the basis of geographical closeness of our two neighboring countries and on the need for the growth and expansion of Iran's national economy. Fulfilling these outlooks is a duty now placed in front of the relevant Iranian and Soviet organizations.

MOSCOW PERSIAN SCORES AS-SADAT'S 'INDECENT' POLICY TOWARD IRAN

NC141900 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 14 Mar 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Fresh facts on the dangerous subserviency and (?obedience) of As-Sadat's regime to the U.S. Government have been revealed recently. According to the New York TIMES, the United States has secretly sent a number of Boeing-707s especially equipped to serve as flying command bases to air bases in Egypt. The New York TIMES writes that these planes are equipped with electronic reconnaissance equipment to command possible war activities by U.S. warships stationed close to the Iranian coasts. We recall that two of these planes, which have also been entrusted with carrying out electronic spying activities, had been transferred to Egypt 2 months ago in order to carry out reconnaissance flights over a vast region including the Persian Gulf and the eastern Mediterranean.

In light of the fact that the number of U.S. planes stationed in Egypt has been increased at a time when Washington is once again threatening Iran with military intervention, many observers believe that this act shows the As-Sadat regime's openly hostile policy toward Iran's revolution. In this way the Egyptian regime has shown its full readiness to blindly follow Washington's policy.

The imperialists have great longings to create a schism between the Arabs and the Iranians, while Iran's policy toward the solution of the Near East problems creates the necessary grounds for the consolidation of solidarity and cooperation between the Arabs and Iran.

The new Iran very firmly put an end to the policy of cooperation with the Israeli aggressors pursued by the regime of the overthrown shah and expressed full support for the Palestinians and for other Arab nations which are struggling to regain their trampled rights. Now the As-Sadat regime--on an ever-increasing scale--is undertaking the execution of the duties of the shah's regime as an accomplice of America in this region. Some time ago Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, speaking about the indecent role being played by the As-Sadat regime, very correctly and in a timely way linked the acts of this regime with the U.S. threats against revolutionary Iran and with the United States' diligent efforts to set up military bases in the Indian Ocean and in the Arab nations' region, which is nothing but U.S. armed intervention.

VARIATION TO ROUNDUP OF LATEST IRANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

Comparison of the item entitled "Roundup of Latest Developments in Iran Reported" published in the 12 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page H 1 with the Tehran dispatch published on page 5 of Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 12 March 1980 reveals the following variation:

Penultimate paragraph, last two lines, PRAVDA reads ... Tehran as hostages. In recent days anti-American demonstrations involving many thousands of people have taken place outside the embassy building. Many political and religious figures have come out in support of the students. It appears from their statements that in the opinion of the majority of Iranians the freeing of the hostages must be accompanied by the fulfillment of Iran's demands. These demands, as is known, amount to the U.S. Government admitting the illegality of interference in Iran's internal affairs in the past and pledging not to interfere in Iran's internal affairs in the future, not to obstruct the extradition of the former shah and the return of the riches he plundered.

Khomeyni has said repeatedly that President Carter should apologize for past U.S. policy toward Iran and agree to the Iranian people's just demands. Such a statement by the U.S. President, it has been noted, could lead to the freeing of the hostages. However, it has not been made, since by all appearances it would not be in accordance with real U.S. intentions.

USSR-IRAQ TRADE, COOPERATION TIES REVIEWED

LD171732 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Baghdad, March 16, TASS--TASS correspondent Anatoliy Golovastov writes: The 21st anniversary of the signing of the first agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the USSR and the Iraqi Republic falls due today. That agreement is a document which laid the beginning to Soviet-Iraqi cooperation in the most different spheres on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, in the interests of development of the national Iraqi economy. New industries: electrotechnical, glass, agricultural machine building, pharmaceutical have been established in Iraq with the assistance of the Soviet Union. The USSR has been rendering the Iraqi Republic extensive assistance in the development of oil deposits, establishing the cement industry, construction of irrigation systems, dams and canals, thermal and hydro-electrical power stations. More than 100 projects on the territory of Iraq, most of them having been put into operation--this is the result of the USSR-IRAQ cooperation. The USSR gives the Iraqi Republic assistance in training national cadres for the development of economy of the country. The USSR helped train more than 30,000 skilled workers, engineers and technicians, many Iraqis are now studying at Soviet universities, institutes and technicums. Trade holds a major place in bilateral links. The USSR is a major buyer of Iraqi oil, dates, other Iraqi export commodities. Machinery and equipment account for 95 per cent of Iraqi imports from the Soviet Union. The many-sided cooperation between the USSR and Iraq is characterised by equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSES TBILISI CONFERENCE ON ANTISOCIAL PHENOMENA

LD131535 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 4 Mar 80 pp 1-3 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "Overcoming Private Ownership Tendencies and Firmly Establishing the Norms of Communist Morality: Scientific and Practical Conference in Tbilisi, 28-29 February 1980"]

[Excerpts] The scientific and practical conference entitled "Overcoming Private Ownership Tendencies--The Precondition for The Firm Establishment Everywhere of the Principles of the Socialist Way of Life and of the Norms of Communist Morality," which took place 28-29 Feburary in Tbilisi, convened by the Georgian CP Central Committee, was an important event in the republic's political and ideological life. It generalized the experience of the Georgian party organization's work in implementing the CPSU Central Committee resolution on the Tbilisi Gorkom, which marked the beginning of an uncompromising and scrupulous struggle against all negative phenomena in the republic's life and in the people's actions and conduct, for the reestablishment of Leninist principles and norms in party life and for the improvement of the moral and psychological climate in each labor collective and in the republic as a whole. At the same time the conference defined the main ways, directions and strategy for a further offensive against private ownership tendencies as the precondition for the firm establishment everywhere of the principles of the socialist way of life and of the norms of communist morality.

The conference was opened by E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee.

Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze's Speech

Comrades!

The republic's scientific and practical conference devoted to the problem of overcoming private ownership tendencies as the precondition for the firm establishment everywhere of the principles of the socialist way of life and the norms of communist morality is starting its work today.

But in order to work out scientifically sound ways and means of overcoming private ownership tendencies, it is obviously necessary to analyse first of all the reasons which engender these tendencies and delve down to their sources and their roots. This is also part of the task of our conference.

The conference participants know very well that we carried out long and thorough preparation for it. This is certainly completely natural and logical. A scientific interpretation of such important and complex problems requires time and profound elaboration.

However it would be incorrect to assume that preparation for the conference began only from the moment when the decision to convene it was made. It would be no exaggeration to say that we have been preparing for this scientific and practical discussion on this topic (It is not fortuitous that our conference is scientific and practical one.) if not all our lives (as it is usual to say), then in any case ever since the adoption of the well-known CPSU Central Committee resolution on the Tbilisi Gorkom. After all, the many negative phenomena revealed in this resolution are based precisely on manifestations of private ownership and money-grubbing psychology on the part of a certain proportion of the people afflicted with the bacillus of consumerism.

Thus we have today all the necessary grounds for declaring that the task of combating private ownership tendencies and overcoming them consistently, purposefully and persistently remains on the agenda of our entire practical and organizational work. This task is a recurrent theme in all our steps, all our daily activity, and in the many important documents being elaborated in the Georgian CP Central Committee. Various aspects of this problem have been raised at almost all our plenums and aktiv meetings and much attention was devoted to it at the 25th Georgian CP Congress.

All the same, there is an acute need to specially examine and discuss the problem of private ownership tendencies in all its aspects.

This need is dictated, first, by the fact that private ownership tendencies, like other vestiges of the past and antitheses of communist morality, are very tenacious. Here I would like to recall the words of V.I. Lenin, who warned soon after the victory of Great October that communism must be built out of "the mass of human material spoiled by centuries and millenia of slavery, bondage, capitalism, and petty fragmented economic management and by the attitude of every man for himself in the battle for a place in the market or a higher price for products or labor."

The great cause of building communism, as is well known, cannot be advanced without the all-round development of man himself. The struggle against what we call vestiges of the past in people's consciousness and actions is a cause which, as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev noted, demands constant attention from the party and all our society's conscious leading forces.

Second, the problem of overcoming private ownership tendencies is the problem of the further ideological and political rallying of Soviet society and the problem of strengthening its monolithic unity, the significance of which was discussed so convincingly by comrade L. Brezhnev at his meeting with voters in Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug.

The struggle against private ownership tendencies is of a clearly expressed class nature, and we have repeatedly stressed this in our speeches and documents.

By submitting the problem of the struggle against private ownership tendencies for examination by the scientific and practical conference we are again stressing the extent of their class dangers and social harmfulness. We are well aware of what damage the private ownership psychology inflicts on the economic and social development of our republic, and not only our republic. After all, acquisitiveness and private ownership tendencies are contrary to the very nature of our system. Were it not for such phenomena our successes would be even more significant, even more weighty. But what we have achieved in recent years has been achieved in the stubborn and difficult struggle against negative phenomena, the main subjective, social and psychological cause of which is, as we have already said, private ownership tendencies and private ownership psychology.

Third, our conference is also fitting and topical because it will again confirm that the struggle against private ownership tendencies is not only in no way contrary to the party's course toward the all-round improvement of the people's well-being, but that this struggle is on the contrary a necessary condition of the achievement of this, the party's program goal.

It is important to understand the main point here: Our struggle against private ownership tendencies has nothing in common with the preaching of asceticism and "barracks communism." Yet this is how the vectors of private ownership tendencies and people who have a poor understanding of Marxist-Leninist theory try to depict the matter.

As is known, we have achieved a great deal in improving the Soviet people's material well-being. As Leonid Ilich again stressed in his speech to voters, improving the people's living standard has been and remains the main aim of all our economic activity and the party's entire policy. We will continue to resolve this task consistently, as was declared at the 25th CPSU Congress. But there too attention was drawn to the need to insure that the growth in material potential is constantly accompanied by an improvement in people's ideological, moral and cultural level. Otherwise we could meet with relapses into a narrowminded, petit bourgeois psychology.

That is why we stress with particular force that our struggle against private ownership tendencies in no way means a struggle against property in general, including citizens' personal property, and that this is not an encroachment on the human rights enshrined in the Soviet Constitution, as those people who have a clear interest in distorting the meaning and aims of our struggle try to make out.

Classical figures in Marxism-Leninism and communists Have fought and continue to fight not against property as such, including personal property, not against material benefits achieved by social labor with a view to satisfying the growing requirements of society and each of its members, but against private ownership, and above all private ownership of the means of production, as the economic basis for the exploitation of man by man.

In a socialist society private ownership of the means of production has been abolished once and for all and the potential has thereby been eliminated for the exploitation of man by man, or exploitation by one class of other classes. The means of production in our country, as is known, have been socialized and are public, state property. However, the potential for using these socialized means of production for private, selfish purposes remains. This potential is exploited as far as possible by people with a private-ownership psychology and morality. In the conditions of our socialist society they can only do this by evading our laws and our communist morality. That is why we regard and describe the vectors of private ownership tendencies as diametrically opposed to our society, our Soviet way of life and our moral principles.

The desire for a secure life and for material well-being is a perfectly natural, legitimate desire. We communists build all our activity in such a way as to insure the satisfaction in every way of the constantly growing material and spiritual requirements of members of our society.

However, we resolutely struggle against material prosperity being attained by dishonest means, against a handful of so-called "energetic people" profiting at society's expense and appropriating the property of the entire people, of our honest workers. May every person, every citizen of the republic, always remember well that schemers, bribetakers, smart dealers and thieves of every stripe who unceremoniously dip their hands in the state's pocket do not and cannot have sources of enrichment other than the plundering of honest working people--our workers, kolkhoz members and intelligentsia--and the most shameless, blatant appropriation of the fruit of their conscientious, dogged, persistent and sometimes also selfless labor.

I emphasize that in our country, in our state, there are no other ways of profiting for all those in whom private ownership instincts have become firmly lodged and no one must remain indifferent to all this nor display any complacency!

We are doing and will continue to do everything for working people to live better and better, for their material sufficiency to increase with every passing day. One of the most effective means of achieving these policy goals of the party is the struggle against private ownership tendencies, the struggle against an essentially capitalist "redistribution" of the public wealth to the benefit of these same "energetic people" in doggedly striving for which they will stop at nothing and not scorn any means.

Our struggle against private ownership tendencies acquires special significance when we think of the profound revolutionary and humanist meaning which reposes in this struggle. After all, this struggle is a struggle for the Man in man, for his spiritual blossoming, for his liberation from enslavement by "things," for insuring that our people see in material sufficiency not a goal and not the purpose of their lives but a means of developing their creative potential, a means for their spiritual growth and spiritual enrichment. We must view the struggle against the vectors of private ownership tendencies--even the most malicious--as a component of the education and shaping of the new man. That is why the party teaches us that the higher our society climbs in its development the more intolerable become deviations from the socialist norms of morality still encountered.

The theme of our scientific and practical conference today is closely linked with a number of questions of the republic's economic, social and cultural development which will be elucidated both in the basic report and in the speeches delivered by those taking part in the conference.

We believe that this attentive, principled party-minded attitude toward the problem which has been posed will enable us to give a scientifically substantiated analysis of the links between cause and effect in the emergence of private ownership tendencies to raise the broad working masses to the struggle against negative phenomena, to improve the work of the party, soviet and public organizations and of our administrative organs and to set the full power of our Soviet laws against vestiges of the past.

The firm foundations of communist morality and our revolutionary historical optimism give reason for asserting that private ownership tendencies are a transient problem. However, they will not die away of their own accord. A constant, implacable, offensive struggle must be waged against vestiges of bourgeois morality. Here every new stage of our development requires new forms of struggle, new categories of assessment.

Whereas in the year of the adoption of the CPSU Central Committee resolution on the Tbilisi Gorkom and in the decisions of the 8th (1972) and 14th (1974) Georgian CP Central Committee plenums, private ownership tendencies were defined as the symptom of a disease which had afflicted a considerable proportion of the population, nowadays, and in particular at the recent party aktiv meeting devoted to questions of consolidating public order, we have noted with satisfaction a certain localization of the dissemination of the manifest forms of this disease, paying special attention to its concealed forms.

That is why a new approach to relapses into this disease, a scientifically substantiated approach, is so important today. That is why an in-depth analysis of the problem is essential. That is why, finally, the slightest slackening in the offensive--and life itself convinces us of this--produces a new flare-up of private ownership tendencies.

Soviet society is a society of working people. Labor for the benefit of society is the very foundation of the socialist way of life, the very foundation of communist morality and the moral code of the builder of communism. The party is doing everything for Soviet people to be morally healthy, which makes us stronger and stauncher. However, there can be no victory for communist morality without a resolute struggle against its antipodes such as money-grubbing and private ownership tendencies or without overcoming people's antisocial views and actions.

It is no accident that we have begun to put new meaning into the word "owner." Nowadays this is not simply the owner of some property or other but a person who seeks to own more, who is devoured by private ownership, selfish interests.

Private ownership makes man dependent, diminishes him and gives rise to egotism, miserliness and greed. As a result private ownership tendencies are immoral, dangerous to socialism because they lead to contradictions between the internal motives of the individual's behavior and the requirements of society.

The problem under examination today is multifaceted because private ownership tendencies themselves are diverse. It is no accident that the program for the conference's work provides for the examination of aspects of the problem such as:

--The economic aspect, since a person's attitude toward ownership is inextricably linked with his attitude toward labor and with a historically determined form of assimilating the material benefits created by society;

--The political aspect since a person devoured by property interests is a vector of bourgeois consumerist morality which the ideologists of imperialism use as an instrument in the struggle against the socialist way of life;

--The moral and psychological aspect, since possessiveness is one of the manifestations of egotism and individualism leading to the degradation of the personality;

--And finally the philosophical aspect, since the problem we have raised hinges on an understanding of the meaning of life and man's social function.

Hence the great complexity of the task of overcoming private ownership tendencies.

The need to galvanize our efforts in the struggle against any negative phenomena, including private ownership tendencies, becomes particularly acute precisely today, under conditions of the complicated international situation, because the ideologists of imperialism are trying to find a breach in the ideological-political cohesion of our society, in our social cohesion, in the cohesion of our country's nations and ethnic groups, fueling private ownership trends in a certain section of the population. We should not forget this!

Our republic, like the entire Soviet land, has now entered an important stage of national economic building--we are completing the 10th 5-Year Plan and thus laying the foundation for future 5-year plans. [paragraph continues]

The Georgian CP Central Committee appealed at the beginning of the year to all working people of the republic to make the present year--Lenin's year--a year of shock labor.

Life itself and all our experience attest that the higher the level of the masses' labor and political activeness, conscious discipline and ideological conviction of each Soviet person, the weightier the successes in cultural and economic building. That is why the party links the struggle to improve work efficiency and quality at all sectors of socialist production very closely with the constant improvement of the working people's ideological-political education.

In the struggle to fulfill the plans and lofty socialist pledges for 1980 we must display constant concern for the formation of a communist world outlook and the ideological-political and moral education of the working people so that every worker, every kolkhoz member, every representative of the intelligentsia and every citizen becomes an aware fighter for the implementation of the party's economic policy, gives all his efforts to the cause of the people and provides a fitting greeting to the 26th CPSU Congress.

Very complex tasks face us. Here too it is highly important to know how to seek out and use all reserves-- physical, organizational and spiritual.

The overcoming of private ownership tendencies, the ability to wrest a person in good time from the quagmire of private ownership mentality [sobstvennichestvo] and to reorient him toward social [ownership] is one more reserve, and a considerable reserve, both in economic terms and with respect to its moral outcome.

The defense of the working people's interests and the exaltation of the working person should become the slogan of the struggle against private ownership tendencies. May this slogan become the slogan of today's conference.

The urgency of the problem now on the agenda is emphasized by the representative composition of the participants in our republic conference: Leading scientists, party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol workers, representatives of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, figures of literature and art and journalists and our guests are taking part in it.

In conclusion, dear comrades, allow me on behalf of the Georgian CP Central Committee and the republic's government to greet all those taking part in our conference and to wish you all successful, fruitful work!

G.M. Yenukidze, secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, delivered at the conference a report entitled "The Struggle Against Private-Ownership Tendencies in the Light of the CPSU Central Committee Resolution 'On the Further Improvement of Ideological and Political-Education Work.'"

To this day one encounters manifestations of private ownership tendencies in various regions, in various spheres of the republic's national economy and at different levels of the managerial system.

In recent years there have been thefts and writeups and operations involving the non-supply of goods [bestovarnyye operatsii] in subdivisions of a number of our ministries and departments and also in agriculture.

To make money, smart dealers continue to try to ship agricultural products out of the republic, using increasingly refined methods. Private ownership tendencies in the countryside are still manifested in the appropriation of state and kolkhoz land and the unauthorized construction of houses and dachas, grossly violating the permitted norms. These things occur in the coastal zone--in Abkhazia and Adzharia, Zugdidskiy, Gurdzhaanskiy and other republic rayons.

The listing of "dead souls" and collection of wages and bonuses for them for nonexistent work remains a highly "popular" way of satisfying private ownership, money-grubbing ambitions in the economic production sphere, particularly in construction organizations.

Many similar manifestations of private ownership tendencies are often a consequence of errors and mistakes in economic management, in the selection, placement and education of cadres and in the control of verification of execution.

Account padding [pripiska] is a most dangerous manifestation of private ownership tendencies inasmuch as they enable smart dealers to use our productive forces for their own selfish, money-grubbing purposes. Account padding is impossible without collusion by a whole group of people and therefore this type of crime is a particular danger to our society.

It is time once and for all to put an end to the viewpoint, still current, that in certain specific conditions account padding is perpetrated, so to speak, with good intentions, in the interests of a particular labor collective or economic sector. There could not be a more mistaken and damaging view. Account padding is perpetrated solely in the interests of that category of working people prepared to go to any lengths--even to swindle the party and state--in order to satisfy their money-grubbing needs.

Equally dangerous socially are such methods of satisfying consumer and money-grubbing ambitions as cheating in accounting, giving short weight and short measure, extortion and speculation. It is the mass character of these phenomena that reveals the harm done to our economy, and especially the moral and psychological atmosphere by gross violations in the sphere of trade, public catering, consumer services and public health. Consumers are drawn willy-nilly into the vicious circle of someone's money-grubbing interests and, moreover, they are satisfying these interests. Often it becomes a kind of custom to use the services of speculators, to pay extra money to workers in the services sphere and so forth. Worse than that, people who are principled on this score sometimes do not get support from the people around them, which essentially amounts to connivance.

The corrupting influence of negative phenomena occurring in the services system is reflected even in our society's nonproductive sphere.

Money-grubbing attitudes are even invading the sphere of scientific workers and teachers some of whom engage in coaching and plagiarism and sometimes even go so far as to appropriate other people's scientific works.

We still have occasion to talk about such a dangerous form of private ownership tendencies as bribery.

Bribes under conditions of a socialist society are the most cynical and blatant way of appropriating someone else's labor. Bribery is dangerous precisely because it is very closely linked to all the manifestations of private ownership tendencies we have discussed above and it can invade any sphere of social life. Bribes can be the general purpose means of linking up the vicious circle of an entire chain of other crimes. Bribes are particularly dangerous because they are inevitably connected with violations of socialist legality on the part of officials undermining the authority of leading organs.

For a number of years officials at the Control and Auditing Section of the Tbilisi Gorispolkom Trade Administration, Dadiani, Zurabiani and Lisyak, abused their official positions: Instead of carrying out audits they extorted large bribes from trade workers. It was the bribes, completing the chain of criminal acts by working people at the Tbilisi champagne combine and trade network, which prevented thefts of monstrous proportions from being discovered promptly.

Georgian SSR MVD employees arrested Kapanadze, senior auditor and comptroller at the Georgian SSR Ministry of Finance; Khatiashvili, technologist at the Varketilskiy winery and Lutidze, ward doctor at the republican hospital of the Georgian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, who are CPSU members, and a certain Markarov, unemployed, who together had formed a criminal group. They had swindled nine citizens out of a total of R66,000 by promising to help their children gain admission to a higher educational establishment and pharmaceutical tekhnikum. This instance gives great food for thought: What is the force of inertia of past years that still makes people not only believe swindlers but enter into criminal relationships with them and lay out massive sums of money? What is the magnetism of getting money for nothing that makes some members of the party--people with higher education, a good job and position--forget about honor and conscience and even cease to fear just punishment and embark on the road of extortion and swindles? This indicates that the psychological stereotype of the all-powerful bribe has not yet been fully eliminated from the consciousness of certain people.

Private ownership tendencies exercise their most dangerous and corrupting influence on society when they invade party, soviet and administrative organs and the sphere of economic management, causing moral degradation in some leading working people and discrediting the norms of party ethics. Careerism, protectionism, bureaucratism, nepotism, localistic tendencies and a haughty neglect of subordinates are the most refined and harmful manifestations of the private ownership tendencies underlying the psychological aims and motives of an individual's behavior. These are phenomena--essentially relics of the past--which are rooted in the system of privileges for the ruling, exploiting and wealthy classes of an antagonistic society--a system which developed over the centuries. Therefore, manifestations of these phenomena under conditions of a socialist society create the preconditions for undermining the trust of the masses in party and state organs and for infringing upon the constitutional rights of the Soviet people, which was once more underlined at the 17th Georgian CP Central Committee Plenum.

Moreover, the social position of the officials affected by the aforementioned vices makes for their negative influence not only upon individual personnel but also on whole groups of people and it also conditions the moral and psychological climate of labor collectives. Most of these instances, alien to socialist nature, are not punishable as crimes and so they can be overcome only by means of public censure and condemnation, painstaking and purposeful work in the ideological, political and moral education of leading cadres and by steadfastly implementing the Leninist principles of their selection and deployment.

When we speak of private ownership tendencies and the forms in which they are manifested, we always have in mind the common root from which they stem--private ownership morality whose ethical essence boils down to egotism and individualism and to the alienation of the individual from society. [paragraph continues]

We are well aware that these psychological relics are still one of the most complex sectors of ideological and educational influence, and primarily because the private ownership instinct is not a passive but an active force, capable of accommodating to a new medium, of using mimicry and adapting itself under any conditions and even of finding justifications for its activities.

An individual possessed of a private ownership instinct is bound to have accomplices for implementing his own aims; the vectors of this evil can in time of need unite and consolidate themselves; therefore we must counter them with the activeness, solidarity and unity of the forces of good and of all honest people who hold dear the moral and spiritual gains of our socialist society.

Our state is currently paying a great deal of attention to incentives for the development of private subsidiary plots which retain their economic significance under socialism as an additional means of satisfying the population's agricultural products requirements.

At the same time, private subsidiary plots are less subject to the regulating influence of society than is social farming, and therefore, for people affected by money-grubbing ambitions, they can sometimes be a source of speculation. Therefore, party, soviet and administrative organs must constantly carry out work to prevent this. On the other hand, social farms must give the private plot sector every assistance by providing it with fertilizers, fodder and equipment and creating as favorable and honest conditions as possible for the reception and procurement of agricultural products.

In recent years Western mass information media have been devoting special attention to our republic, specifically to the resolute struggle against negative phenomena currently being waged by the Georgian CP and all the republic's working people. In the United States, Britain and France there have even appeared scientific opuses using our press materials to investigate the socioeconomic processes taking place in Georgia. Taking advantage of the fact that we have revealed openly and boldly and are still revealing all shortcomings, and distorting on an ever wider scale our struggle for man, the bourgeois scribblers pick out of our critical items the negative facts and put their own interpretation on them in an attempt to pass off the exceptional as typical and to transform an individual instance into a social phenomenon and thus, allegedly, demonstrate the futility and hopelessness of the Georgian communists' resolute course toward overcoming antisocial phenomena.

The refined nature of bourgeois propaganda's subversive activity consists in the fact that "exhortation tactics" are becoming a growing feature: Increasingly often smart dealers, bribetakers, speculators and even criminals are portrayed as political fighters expressing the freedom-loving spirit of the people. Naturally, swindlers and money-grubbers of all kinds go for the mask of "fighters" for the nation's interests. It is symptomatic that as soon as a fruit speculator receives his due retribution he takes up the tune of his foreign patrons, saying this is a restriction of freedom. Private ownership tendencies and petty bourgeois sentiments are declared by anticommunist propaganda to be manifestations of enterprise, natural quick-wittedness and of the abilities and lofty cultural needs of the nation. They say private ownership psychology is a natural trait, while negative phenomena are nothing but the "recalcitrant's" struggle for national individuality.

The close link between socioeconomic and moral problems is particularly apparent under the modern conditions of ideological confrontation. Any blunder in our economic work or in management, any omission in ideological and moral education is a crack through which morals, views and life style elements alien to us can seep.

The welfare of the working people and the satisfaction of their constantly growing needs --this is the goal of our policy. But, at the same time, it is important that there be formed and developed on the basis of this well-being a harmoniously developed, spiritually rich person dedicated to the principles of the socialist way of life. Herein lies the organic unity of the party's economic policy and the aims of the communist education of the new person. Therefore, the harmonious combination of each person's material interests and aims with the economic interests and goals of society as a whole is a particularly important task of economic building and ideological education work today.

Speaking at the closing of the conference, E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, noted the conference's fundamental significance in terms of the Georgian party organization's entire activity and its struggle against all kinds of negative phenomena and indicated the main ways of finally normalizing the moral and psychological climate in the republic, stressing in particular that party, soviet, economic, trade union and Komsomol organs, ministries and departments, VUZes and scientific institution collectives and creative organizations must elaborate and implement specific comprehensive measures to further improve all this work in the republic.

MASHEROV, RASHIDOV ATTEND SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD142209 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Today in Minsk and Tashkent the first session of the supreme soviets of Belorussia and Uzbekistan of the new convocation ended. At the session in Minsk there was discussion of efficient use of improved lands. The deputies approved plans for the comprehensive use of water and land resources in the basins of the major rivers in the republic. The realization of these plans is projected for a long-term period. Taking part in the work of the session was Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Belorussian Communist Party.

At the session in Tashkent, apart from organizational questions the deputies examined questions on measures for improving the building of housing and communal services projects. In Tashkent, the capital of the republic alone, this year about 1 million square meters of housing will be commissioned for use. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Uzbekistan Communist Party, took part in the work of the session.

KIRGIZ OBKOM ELECTS NEW FIRST SECRETARY

LD141221 Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 7 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[KIRTAG report: "Narynskiy Party Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] A Narynskiy Obkom Plenum was held on 6 March. It examined an organizational question.

The plenum released A. Savitakhunov from his duties as first secretary and Bureau member of the Narynskiy Obkom in connection with his transfer to other work.

The plenum elected M. Sydykov, who formerly worked as chairman of the Narynskiy Oblispolkom, first secretary of the Narynskiy Obkom.

K. Ye. Fomichenko, second secretary of the Kirgiz CP Central Committee, took part in the plenum's work.

NEW KIRGIZ DEPUTY PREMIER APPOINTED

LD141223 [Editorial Report LD] Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 7 March 1980 front-pages a 6 March 1980 Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium decree on the appointment of Dzhamal Chuybekovna Tashibekova as deputy chairman of the Kirgiz Council of Ministers.

LE MONDE PRINTS OPEN LETER FROM SOVIET PRISON CAMP INMATES

LD141437 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Mar 80 p 9 LD

[Unattributed report: "An Open Letter From Two Soviet Political Prisoners"]

[Text] Mr Eduard Kuznetsov, a Soviet deportee--he was exchanged together with three other deportees for two Soviet spies in prison in the United States in April 1979--has sent us a document written by two dissidents now in prison in the USSR, N. Akhmetov and V. Mikhalenko. Mr Eduard Kuznetsov writes that on 23 January the Frankfurt Committee for the Defense of Human Rights notified him that the two West German workers had "found a letter between planks of timber from the USSR." He adds:

"Something has changed: In Stalin's day it was severed hands that you found between such planks. It is all to do with profitable trade with a state which has slaves. Moreover this is a special subject.

"I do not know who Mikhalenko is but I do know Akhmetov. He is now 30 years old. He is a clever and courageous man--a Bashkir poet who lived in poverty; he was just 18 years old when he was sent to a camp for common-law criminals for some trifling offense and in 1971 he was again tried at the camp for so-called anti-Soviet propaganda: Recognized as a recidivist criminal who was particularly dangerous to the government he received an additional sentence of 7 years particularly harsh regime and 3 years to internal exile. That is how he came to be in our zone.

"The year 1972 was a worse year of famine than any other and our camp rebelled two or three times: Therefore summary justice had to be used to quell the others. Of all the slogans which covered the walls and ceiling of the cell in which Akhmetov was locked with about a dozen other prisoners I only remember the following: 'The USSR Is the Prison of Peoples'. He was given 5 more years imprisonment for.... 'hooliganism' and he did not return to our camp until December 1977; in April the following year when his political sentence was over, he was transferred to a common-law camp.

"On the eve of his transfer I gave Akhmetov an address in Moscow so that he could let me know where he ended up, what life was like and whether it would be possible to help him. [paragraph continues]

However nothing reached Moscow. It took almost 2 years for him to give any sign of life; through Frankfurt-am-Main.... What a small world it is! Absurd, old-fashioned and useless questions keep coming to mind.... I wonder what use could be made of the Soviet timber and what laquer was used to paint it to stifle the smell of suffering and blood that it exudes? Why are successful businessmen and political leaders inwardly so like criminals? Being able to fill your belly now and make a quick profit is the main aim and what does it matter if the grass never grows again?"

The text of the open letter from N. Akhmetov and V. Mikhalenko which we are publishing below is dated September 1978.

"We Simply Dared To Mention Freedom, Rights and Democracy Aloud"

"We do not know which country, socialist or free, will receive the products of the slave labor of Soviet prisoners but we address our appeal to the population of that country and to its government on behalf of Soviet political prisoners, irrespective of the importing country's political system, because we are convinced that our letter will find an echo in any country and among any people.

"We Nizametdin Shomeutdinovich Akhmetov and Vladimir Mikhaylovich Mikhalenko, political prisoners imprisoned in a strict regime common-law camp deep in Siberia, completely isolated from the society of our country and from the whole world, have no hope of release and our very lives are in danger. We are not murderers, thieves or rapists: We simply dared to think of freedom, to have our own beliefs and above all, dared to speak and write about freedom, rights and democracy--in short we dared to tell the truth and not hide our beliefs.

"We did not do anything special, we did not carry out any exploits and our actions did not spark off revolution in our country--the people do not even know us--but, nonetheless, we made the crucial choice of our life: We took the path of struggle against injustice and lies and defended the national interests of the USSR's small and large nations; we protested against the destruction of the human personality, against lack of rights and against men being turned into robots at work and during their leisure; we challenged the CPSU's savage regime and unlimited dictatorship.

"All that is life--no more, no less. It may be that we did not use the right methods and that our work was not very effective but we are convinced that our efforts and our struggle are just; it is impossible to behave otherwise in this country if you are a citizen of it; civic awareness and human dignity leave you no choice.

"We are living in a country which we call our homeland, which we love and therefore hate the form it has taken under the Chekists' boots and under the leadership of the fascist-type clique--the party Central Committee. Our people are subjected to despotism and poverty more than any other; our prisons are the most secure and the biggest; our army is the largest and most aggressive; our government is the cruellest and most perfidious of all; our country's policy is the most serious threat to the rest of the world.... You do not believe that? Then praise the communists! Come and face the Soviet tanks with children in your arms instead of grenades! [paragraph continues]

Smile at the Soviet missiles which are targetted on your homes! You have always given way to the communists, stand aside again now! Give them Western Europe, let them enter Africa and launch them into China!

"Give the communists victory! We ask you to, we want you to. Let red flags fly over Bonn, Paris, London and Washington! Let the whole world become a communist universe! Communism in your homes! It is then and only then that everybody will know what Soviet communism is like: The whole world will be immunized against the Red plague once it has contracted it. However you should be warned: Only half of mankind will be left, perhaps even less.

"Of course, you do not want to make such a sacrifice and you will not adopt this procedure which is the safest and most natural. Moreover we are against that too but we cannot be indifferent to the sight of the free world gradually ceding its positions to communism, playing communism's game and finally ending up fearing it. It is a betrayal.

"We Are Walking in the Shadow of Death"

"Yes, we are emotional, we do not understand the finer points and subtle maneuvers of high politics: Perhaps because we are both poets, our perceptions are acute and we are walking in the shadow of death... However we are not alone: Thousands of other political prisoners are rotting in camps in Mordovia and the Perm region and in the casemates of Vladimir prison; 250 million wretched citizens stripped of all rights live in our country and almost as many in Eastern Europe. (Not to mention China: the Soviet missiles and tanks are just waiting for the signal to turn millions of Chinese into ashes and bloody mud). All are behind the Iron Curtain. Are you indifferent to what happens there?

"We know that the West has done and is still doing a great deal for us (for political prisoners and for our fellow citizens) especially in recent years and we are grateful. However we think it is possible to do more, much more. We are not asking to be liberated by U.S. soldiers or soldiers from another country: that would be ridiculous and would only turn us into enemies. However broader, stronger solidarity, more decisive support is possible and necessary and it should be given.

"We are sending two poems with our letter. It is an open letter and hence can be published in the press but editorial corrections must not distort the meaning of our letter-appeal."

BRIEFS

MAGADAN GORISPOLKOM SESSION--Mikhail Kirillovich Moskalenko was reelected chairman of the Magadan Gorispolkom at the first session of the gorispolkom which was held today to discuss organizational matters. The session also confirmed supervisors of the gorispolkom's departments and administrations. Plotnikova, deputy chairman of the gorispolkom, delivered a report on the condition of and measures for further improvement of medical services for people in the oblast capital in light of the demands of the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on measures to further improve public health. [Magadan Domestic Service in Russian 0755 GMT 10 Mar 80 OW]

KOKCHETAV OBKOM PLENUM--The tasks of the oblast party organization for the further development of communal stockbreeding were discussed on 11 March at an Obkom plenum in Kokchetav. It was noted that the oblast in the last four years sold to the state much above-plan milk, wool and eggs. Serious shortcomings were also noted in the development of that important branch. Measures were outlined to eliminate them. [Alma-ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 11 Mar 80 AU]

COSMOS-1167 ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE LAUNCHED

LD141456 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14, TASS--The Soviet Union today launched the Cosmos-1167 artificial earth satellite.

The sputnik carries on board scientific equipment intended for continuing space research.

The sputnik's orbit has the following parameters: initial period of revolution--93.3 minutes, maximum distance from the surface of the earth--457 kilometres, minimum distance--433 kilometres, inclination of orbit--65 degrees.

The equipment is functioning normally.

CHECHENO-INGUSHETIA RAYONS OBTAIN TELEVISION RECEPTION

LD101115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Correspondent V. Artemenko report: "Screens Lit Up"]

[Text] Groznyy, 3 March--The residents of all rayons of Checheno-Ingushetia can now watch television programs.

One more relay station serving the steppe zone of the autonomous republic was commissioned recently. With its help screens have lit up in the homes of residents of the rayon center Znamenskoye and the villages of Bratskoye, Beno-yurt and others.

BRIEFS

NEW STATION IN THE ANTARCTIC--Leningrad, 28 February, TASS--One more permanent address will be added to the map of Soviet Antarctic researchers. This will be the new all-year Russkaya station on Burks Cape in the south polar Amundsen Sea. Today, as is reported in a radiogram to Leningrad, the D.E. Gizhiga arrived here. Transport helicopters have begun transferring freight to the site chosen for construction of the station. The participants of the 25th Soviet Antarctic expedition are to erect a scientific townlet of 17 buildings at Burks Cape. The opening up of the Russkaya station is essential for extending the territory of collecting and processing meteorological information in the Antarctic. This opens new paths to understanding the natural processes, increasing the precision of weather forecasts throughout the Southern Hemisphere. As well as observing atmospheric phenomena, the station's scientific program includes analysis of solar radiation and medical research. [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0823 GMT 28 Feb 80 LD]

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM--This country is setting up a system of communications with sea-going vessels on long trips. The system will operate through satellites in the Cosmos series. In Moscow (?to the) vessel radio network via satellites [words indistinct], magnetic storms and other [word indistinct], which insure steady contacts over tens of thousands of kilometers. This country is a member of (IMANSON), a new international organization of satellite communications. The Soviet Union (?is providing) receiving stations and foreign ships with weather data obtained from orbits over different regions of the world and also receives similar information. [Text] [Moscow World Service in English 0430 GMT 7 Mar 80 LD]

LOCAL PAPERS REPORT LEADER'S ELECTION SPEECHES

Kunayev 16 Feb Speech

LD061219 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 80 pp 1-2 LD

[KAZTAG report: "Under the Leninist Party's Banner: Voters' Meeting With D.A. Kunayev"]

[Excerpts] Rallied closely around the Communist Party and its Central Committee, working people in Kazakhstan, as throughout the country, are marching under the victorious Leninist banner to meet the elections to the organs of state power, striving to do everything possible to successfully implement the decisions of the historic 25th CPSU Congress and the targets for the final year and the 5-year plan as a whole.

The village of Bakanas, Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, is in festive attire. Slogans and banners call for election day to be marked with labor achievements. A meeting took place in the rayon House of Culture 16 February between voters in Bakanasskiy No 30 Electoral Okrug and their candidate deputy of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet, Dinmukhamad Akhmedovich Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee.

The candidate deputy's agent, M. Kartanbayev, irrigation worker at the Bakhbakhtinskiy Sovkhoz, spoke.

The election campaign demonstrates with new force the unity of the Leninist party and the people. At election meetings in the country Comrade L. I. Brezhnev and other leaders of the Communist Party and Soviet state were named as the first candidate deputies. Today we have great satisfaction in again expressing our warm gratitude to Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee, for consenting to run in our electoral okrug. Balkhashkiy Rayon voters and working people throughout our republic know him as a prominent figure in the CPSU and Soviet state. For many years he has headed the Kazakhstan Party Organization, devoting all his knowledge, ability and experience to the great cause of communist creation. Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich has won the deepest respect and well-earned prestige among the working people. Many major achievements in the development of Soviet Kazakhstan's economy, science and culture are associated with his activity. For his great services to the party and the Soviet state Comrade D. A. Kunayev has twice been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev spoke with great warmth of D. A. Kunayev in his remarkable book "The Virgin Lands."

Despite being very busy, Comrade D. A. Kunayev frequently visits Balkhashskiy Rayon and does a great deal for the development of its economy and culture. In recent years, the agent said, the appearance of our settlements has changed beyond recognition and the formerly empty steppe has taken on new life. The opening up of the Akdalinskiy Massif, the creation of new rice sovkhozes, the irrigation of pastures and the construction of new settlements and modern roads--that is by a no means full list of what has been done in the rayon.

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I call on all voters in our okrug, on election day--24 February--to vote for Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich Kunayev, the true son of Lenin's party. By voting for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people we will be voting for the triumph of the Leninist party's great cause.

Hero of Socialist Labor N. G. Krylova, doctor in the rayon hospital, then took the floor. Soviet people, she said, have, as before, nominated the best sons and daughters of the party and people as candidate deputies. Together with all voters we health workers in the rayon received D. A. Kunayev's agreement to run in our okrug with great joy. We know Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich well as a skilled organizer and party leader and a sensitive and attentive person whose career and labor activity are a worthy example of selfless service to the cause of the party and people.

Comrade D. A. Kunayev, who was greeted warmly by the voters, delivered a speech. He said:

Dear comrades!

All over our country extremely important work has been launched to prepare for an important event in sociopolitical life--the elections to the organs of state power. At meetings taking place in the republic between voters and candidate deputies of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet and local soviets, the truly democratic nature of the Soviet system, the indestructible unity of party and people and the monolithic cohesion of the mighty bloc of Communists and nonparty people are again being displayed most convincingly.

At these meetings there is interested, businesslike and frank discussions of the most topical questions of state significance, in which every labor collective and every voter feels involved. All this arouses a feeling of pride in the triumph of socialist democracy as embodied in the soviets, which were the product of Vladimir Ilich Lenin's genius and the people's revolutionary creativity.

With this in mind, permit me to express the most cordial gratitude to you and to all the working people's collectives which have again nominated me candidate deputy of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet. It is always a high honor for me to be the Bakanas working people's representative in the republic's supreme organ of state power.

The speeches we have heard from this platform have again convincingly confirmed the profound devotion of the glorious working class, kolkhoz peasantry and people's intelligentsia to our own dear party's great cause, the CPSU's wise course, which is being confidently implemented by the Soviet people under the tried and tested leadership of the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally.

I attribute the trust placed in me and the warm words said about me entirely to our own dear party, with whose activity all the Soviet people's successes, our country's international prestige and the noble cause of peace and genuine social progress are associated.

With all my heart I assure you that I will exert all my efforts, knowledge and experience to justify your high trust always and in everything.

Comrades! The period which has elapsed since the last elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet has been filled with events of exceptionally great political importance both within the country and in the world arena.

Today we are witnesses to and participants in the consistent and persistent embodiment of the economic and social program elaborated by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses. In this period the country has made considerable advances in all avenues of the economy, science and culture, in boosting the working people's material and cultural living standard and in strengthening the defense might of our state and the entire socialist community.

On the basis of the successes achieved our state, making use of the ever-increasing social consumption fund, is extending the material guarantees of such constitutional rights as the right to education, health protection and leisure and insuring the protection of mother and child and the payment of pensions, allowances and grants.

The working people's house conditions are being improved. The network of culture and health care institutions and trade, municipal and consumer services enterprises is being extended and their activity improved.

The international positions of our country and the entire socialist community and their prestige and influence are now firmer than ever before. Unlike any other social system, we have at our disposal today the world's most powerful economic potential, vast material and technical resources and--most important--the inexhaustible energy of millions of people inspired by the historical prospect which clearly indicates that the future belongs entirely to true social progress.

All this and much more indicates not in words but in practice the vitality and indisputable advantages of mature socialism and the profound effectiveness of the wise policy of Lenin's party, the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, that outstanding politician and statesman of today.

That is why working people in our republic named Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, as their first candidate deputy.

Leonid Ilich devotes all the political and statesmanlike wisdom, strength of mind and heart, rich experience, energy and passion of a true Leninist communist to the noble cause of communist building in our country and the struggle for just peace throughout the world.

The Kazakh people and all the working people of multinational Soviet Kazakhstan are wholeheartedly grateful to Leonid Ilich for his constant attention and assistance to our republic, whose indisputable achievements in the last quarter century are also fused inseparably with his name in the glorious deeds of opening up the virgin lands and establishing a powerful multisector industry and in the successes of science and culture.

Thanks to the party's and government's tireless concern the republic is developing confidently and dynamically within the country's unified national economic complex.

Kazakhstan's industry has become mighty and is growing rapidly under the active influence of scientific and technical progress and leading experience. The republic's unique territorial production complexes--the Pavlodar-Ekibastuzskiy, Karagandinskiy, Karatau-Dzhambulskiy, Kustanayskiy, Mangyshlakskiy and others--are exerting a substantial influence on the all-union economy, confirming the correctness of the party's line on the accelerated development of the country's eastern regions.

The inspired and harmonious labor of the people of Kazakhstan in all sectors of the economy is yielding good results.

The republic now produces five times as much industrial output in just 1 year as it did in all the prewar 5-year plans put together.

The range of products manufactured is being expanded and their quality is improving. The best articles made in Kazakhstan are known and valued highly in our country and far beyond its borders.

The plan for output sales volume and the production of most of the most important types of output for the first 4 years of the 5-year plan has been successfully fulfilled.

The scale of capital construction is more considerable than ever before. Since the start of the 10th 5-Year Plan more than 200 new enterprises, major production facilities and shops, equipped with the most modern machinery, have been commissioned. Among them are the Pavlodar oil refinery, the Novodzhambulskiy phosphates plant, the Zhezkentskiy mining and enriching combine, new capacities in the power industry and in the Bogatyr coal pit in Ekibastuz, and many other projects.

Agriculture is developing successfully as a result of the consistent implementation of the CPSU's agrarian policy. Since the start of the 5-year plan the gross grain yields has increased 27 percent. Plans for the first 4 years for purchases of wheat, corn grain, rice, potatoes and vegetables have been overfulfilled. The production of sugar beets, cotton and fruit has increased.

Last year--the year of the glorious 25th anniversary of the Virgin Land--was an exceptionally good year for Kazakhstan, in which a record quantity of high-quality grain was produced and procured. The major victory of the republic's grain growers has been assessed highly by the party and government--Kazakhstan has been awarded the motherland's highest award, the Order of Lenin.

Certain positive shifts have also taken place in stockraising. The numbers and productivity of livestock have increased.

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Large-scale road, housing and cultural and consumer construction is in progress in the republic and all forms of transportation and communications are being improved.

Since the start of the 5-year plan housing conditions have been improved for more than 2.5 million people. As throughout the country, the working people's material well-being has increased considerably. The provisions of cultural, people's education and health care institutions and trade and consumer services enterprises for the population has been considerably increased. There has been a substantial increase in the number of newly opened institutes, technical schools and other educational institutions where cadres are trained in all kinds of specialities for the republic's rapidly developing national economy. One person in three in Kazakhstan is now studying.

Many of the collectives of the republic's scientific institutions have stepped up their concrete ties with production. They are working on topical problems of a theoretical and applied nature and strengthened the alliance between science and practice.

Certain successes have been achieved in the many genres of literature and art in Kazakhstan. The activity of a number of creative unions has improved considerably. The material and technical base of printing is strengthening. Representative creative meetings and festivals have been held in the capital and in other cities and villages, primarily in the virgin lands, and these have been a memorable event in the cultural life of the country and the republic.

Comrades! All 19 oblasts of Kazakhstan make their contribution to the development of the republic's multisector economy, science and culture.

Addressing you today as your candidate deputy, I would particularly like to dwell on the deeds of the twice-decorated Alma-Atinskaya Oblast. It accounts for a significant proportion of Kazakhstan's national economy. Major industrial enterprises, sovkhozes and kolkhozes, scientific and cultural institutions, VUZes, technical schools and schools, creative unions and organizations are concentrated here.

Since the start of the 10th 5-Year Plan about R4 billion of capital investments have been channeled into the all-round development of the oblast, which has made it possible to commission a number of major capacities at factories, plants and combines, speed up the modernization of the capital and construction works there, improve the architectural appearance of other settlements in the oblast and carry out considerable work to insure the further provision of public services and amenities and the planting of greenery.

It is gratifying to see that many labor collectives are constantly improving their indicators and the quality of work and of the output produced and are setting the tone of the socialist competition.

An example of creative labor is provided by the best representatives of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry and people's intelligentsia.

In the year of the 25th anniversary of the virgin lands the oblast's rural workers worked well. They poured more than 21 million poods of grain into the motherland's granaries, overfulfilled the plan for the procurement of vegetables, sugar beets and potatoes and sold the state more wheat, milk, eggs and other agricultural products than before.

Much is being done to further develop all forms of transportation and communications. Major motor vehicle facilities, automatic communications centers and a radio relay line linking Alma-Ata, Chilik and Panfilov have been commissioned.

Many health care, educational and cultural projects have been constructed and medical and consumer services to the oblast's working people have been improved.

The activity of many Alma-Atinskaya Oblast scientists has become more fruitful. Students and pupils and young working people are doing many useful things.

Comrade! When I addressed you on the eve of the last elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet I spoke in detail on the development prospects for Balkhashskiy Rayon.

It is pleasing to note that the years which have elapsed have not disappeared without trace but have brought about favorable changes in its economy and culture. The times when thousands of hectares of fertile land stood empty in the rayon, awaiting industrious people and their initiative, ability and skill, have gone forever.

In the period which has elapsed since the start of the development of the Akdalinskiy Massif, three major ricegrowing sovkhozes have been commissioned and construction work has begun on a fourth.

The Bakhbakhtinskiy Sovkhoz has rightly become the rayon's labor glory. It is now a mighty, profitable farm. Its collective is able not only to fulfill but to considerably overfill plan targets.

The opening up of formerly empty lands and their irrigation indicates that you have all the conditons for transforming your region into one of the major ricegrowing regions not only in the republic but in the country.

Alongside economic growth, the life of rural workers has changed notably for the better. This is obvious both from the rayon center itself and from other settlements. It is hard to believe now that it was necessary to start almost from scratch here. Probably you now have no settlement without a house of culture, a library and school. A gas supply is being introduced and roads are being built in the rayon. All forms are linked to the state power lines. What was recently one of the most "remote" regions of Kazakhstan can now freely watch television from both Alma-Ata and Moscow.

All this indicates that every working family's life has become more interesting, fuller and richer.

Comrades! While assessing positively what has been done, I must also dwell on the problems which must be resolved in the light of the high demands of the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's profound and principled speech at the plenum.

This is all the more important since in the final years of the 10th 5-Year Plan, on the basis of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the 24th Kazakhstan CP Congress, the republic faces tasks of exceptional significance.

The party directs us to make comprehensive use of existing reserves and potential and improve production efficiency and work quality in every sector. Here it is important to note this year's particular characteristic, which is that the level achieved in this year's results will become the strong point and the base for the 11th 5-Year Plan and our society's further social development.

The state annually invests considerable resources in the intensive development of the republic's national economy, including agriculture, in order to insure that Kazakhstan's tremendous riches serve the entire Soviet people even better.

This year, mainly by means of developing the sectors which determine technical progress, we must increase the annual volume of industrial output by a minimum of 5.7 percent. At least 65 percent of the growth must be obtained by increasing labor productivity.

It is necessary to insure further growth in the scale of production and implement a substantial program for the construction and commissioning of new capacities in every sector of the economy.

As before, the main emphasis is placed on the accelerated development of the power industry, the fuel, chemicals and petroleum industries and machine building. Here we must considerably increase the quantitative and qualitative indicators in all spheres of Kazakhstan's industry, and in the production of consumer goods.

A considerable volume of work must be fulfilled by rural workers, whose tasks are clearly defined by the relevant party and government resolutions.

In grain production our main aim is to consolidate and confidently develop further the successes already achieved. This means that in the current year we must again give the motherland as much high-quality Kazakhstan grain, rice, industrial crops, vegetables and other agricultural products as possible.

At least 1.5 million tons of meat and more than 2.3 million tons of milk must be produced.

As you see, these are considerable amounts. The fulfillment of these and other tasks will again require coherence, ability and skill and the intensified concentration and specialization of agricultural production. It is important to seek the greatest possible reduction in the number of laggard farms. In these conditions the significance of the broadest possible utilization of leading experience and of science's specific responsibility for the substantiation of recommendations and their practical effectiveness is increasing sharply.

In a word, great deeds await the republic's working people everywhere. We will construct still more furnished housing and continue to extend the network of health care and people's education, of trade and of cultural, municipal and consumer services, to develop physical culture, sports and tourism and to improve social security and the conservation of nature and the environment.

Of course, all this will not happen of its own accord. That is why each of our working people must work conscientiously, enterprisingly and creatively. That is the only way to insure the successful fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 10th 5-Year Plan targets by every oblast, rayon and labor collective, as is demanded by our party and by the very spirit of the times.

In the light of the tasks set by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev at the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum much has to be done by the Alma-Atinskaya Oblast Party Organization and all the working people of Alma-Ata and the capital's oblast, including the working people of your rayon.

Above all it is necessary, by strengthening plan and labor discipline and the policy of economy and thrift everywhere, to achieve steady, high-quality work by all labor collectives, not permitting anyone to lag behind or an attempt to hide his negligence behind the positive results of other people's work.

One of the key questions posed by the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum is that of further improving the quality of work and output. It must be said that in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, as throughout the republic, much has been done in this direction. Nonetheless the problem of quality remains acute. In this respect the 12th Kazakhstan CP Central Committee Plenum rightly criticized a number of republic departments and Alma-Ata enterprises. The situation is changing for the better, but certain leaders are acting as though the criticism applied not to them but to someone else. We must on no account concur with this.

It must be supposed that the obkom, gorkoms and raykoms and the soviet and economic organs will adopt every measure to eliminate existing shortcomings, and here we must begin by improving the rate and quality of construction and modernization and eliminating the dispersal of resources and efforts, especially in rural areas.

I wish to draw attention to the need to improve the rate and quality of the construction of housing and social, cultural and consumer projects and to expand the network of children's institutions in Alma-Ata and the oblast. This problem has been posed in concrete form and specific schedules have been laid down for resolving it--they must be fulfilled, comrade oblast, city and rayon leaders!

While stepping up exactingness toward construction workers, we must also give them effective assistance.

Comrades! There are also unresolved problems in the rural economy of Alma-Atinskaya Oblast. Thus certain rayons, including yours, are in debt to the state for the sale of the main types of livestock products. In several places indicators are extremely low and quite unjustified livestock losses are permitted. This situation must be rectified, the more so as the oblast has to substantially increase the numbers of livestock and the production of meat, milk and wool. This task is entirely realistic. A special role belongs to your rayon in fulfilling it.

The further development of sheep raising will depend to a significant extent on the completion of the current wintering of stock. It is important to complete it favorably everywhere.

The oblast's rural workers are faced with the task of continuing confidently to increase the production of high-quality grain and industrial crops and supplying Alma-Ata working people with milk and the full range of fruit and vegetables. This must be done without fail--primarily through improving the work of existing farms and creating new ones and bringing more irrigated land into active use.

By making better use of the Ili River waters it is intended to expand the Kerbulakskiy and Chingeldinskiy massifs and also to really "straddle" the Akdalinskiy Massif and transform it into the republic's mighty ricebowl. Comrade inhabitants of Balkhashskiy Rayon, this is the task closest to your hearts, a vital one, it might be said.

Moreover, it is necessary to accelerate the installation of the Bartogayskoye reservoir with the Chilik-Chemolgan canal, which will make it possible to irrigate extensive new areas of land and substantially increase the yield of the land already in use. The canal will cut through Alma-Ata City, too. Taking into account the special importance of this construction project, the Alma-Atinskiy Obkom must exercise steady, daily and, above all, effective control over it.

Comrades! The further improvement of the oblast's economy and culture demands full coordination, maximum organization and constant strengthening of discipline at all levels and the strictest eradication of all instances of mismanagement.

Everywhere perfect order must be established and constantly maintained in transportation work, in municipal housing and consumer services and in the trade and public catering system--that is, in those spheres which affect the interests of each family and every person.

When talking about trade we must not overlook the organization of purchases of surplus agricultural products from the population and their sale on a commission basis.

While making just demands on industry, particularly light and local industry and the food and meat and dairy industries, it is important to do everything to insure that goods on which raw materials, labor and funds have been expended reach the purchaser in first-class condition. A determined effort must be made to eradicate instances of artificial shortages and to unearth and severely punish their "creators."

I would like to dwell on another matter which was also specifically mentioned at the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum. I am referring to closer contacts between working people in the countryside and the city, to eliminating the absence of personal responsibility and all manifestations of dependency in patronage ties and to the need to switch to constant and specific forms of these ties. This applies particularly to sovkhozes' and kolkhozes' relations with procurement and trading organizations. I would like to see here as few intermediaries and intermediate links as possible.

All our creative unions and organizations, cultural institutions, the press, television and radio must get closer to the countryside and its vital concerns and problems. The further improvement of the rural economy is a matter of general concern, there can be no indifference and aloofness here.

Comrades! The working people of your rayon, like all Kazakhstan people, have their own pressing tasks whose importance cannot be overestimated on an oblast and republic scale. I have already said that you have every opportunity of transforming the rayon into a major ricegrowing base of union significance. For this purpose new farms must be created and, at the same time, the work results of existing sovkhozes must be improved.

We have substantial reserves. You know what they are and you must make maximum use of them. It is important first of all to raise rice yields on all areas to at least 45 quintals per hectare.

It is expected that you will also successfully arrange matters in livestock raising. I want to say that your rayon has accumulated considerable valuable stockraising experience which can and must be introduced in all farms.

Everything must be done to make sure the rayon fully assimilates capital investments in housing and cultural and consumer construction.

In accordance with the well-known republic government resolution a considerable amount of work is to be done in Bakanas Village, and 140 new apartment blocks, preschool establishments and other buildings are to be constructed in the rayon.

Your rayon has a real opportunity to improve its economy and culture even more by improving work quality in all areas and strengthening public law and order and socialist legality, in accordance with party demands.

Thus, comrades, whatever sphere of our life we are considering, we must critically assess what has been done, not be satisfied with what has been achieved, be able to take a long-term view, really treasure the trust of the party and people and work creatively, enterprisingly and as hard as possible.

As is known, the preparations for the elections are a review of the activity of soviets at all levels. Their authority and influence grow with each passing year. The multifaceted activity of organs of people's power was raised to a new qualitative level with the adoption of the new USSR Constitution. In the soviets millions of people are schooled in running the affairs of state and society. As V. I. Lenin said, "for the first time in the history of civilized societies the mass of the population will be prompted to participate independently not only in voting and elections but also in the day-to-day management of affairs" (Vol 33 p 116). Proceeding on the basis of Lenin's instructions, the party will continue to do all it can to insure that the principles of people's power are implemented everywhere, unswervingly and without ostentation and formalism. "Tremendous vital force lies in our soviets and soviet democracy," L. I. Brezhnev has pointed out, "and fuller use must be made of it to uncover existing reserves, criticize shortcomings, compare views and work out valid solutions."

In our country working people of all trades and ages participate in managing the affairs of state and society. The Komsomol and young people are doing great things. In the fraternal union of our republics Kazakhstan is one of the youngest in that over one-half of its population is under 30. We will continue in all things to place even greater reliance on the glorious young people and to educate them in the spirit of the Leninist friendship of the peoples, Soviet patriotism and the readiness to carry out any of the motherland's assignments.

The current election campaign is taking place in the final year of the 5-year plan, on the basis of which the next, 11th 5-Year Plan will be built. It is the year of the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth. It is the year of the 35th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. It is also a year of active preparation for the 26th CPSU congress.

We must respond to the party's appeal and make 1980 a year of shock work, Lenin-style work. The forthcoming 60th anniversary of the Kazakh SSR and Kazakhstan CP compels us to do this.

While further broadening socialist competition and exhorting people to shock labor, it is important to create everywhere a businesslike and principled atmosphere, to eradicate any manifestations alien to the Soviet way of life and to fulfill Lenin's demand that "we must struggle tirelessly against all bourgeois ideology whatever fashionable or dazzling costume it dons" (Vol 6 p 269).

The Communist Party and our state of the whole people will continue to bear aloft the banner of social justice and true human rights and freedoms, imbuing them with real content which no slanderous fabrications will diminish.

The entire creative activity of Lenin's party has convincingly demonstrated that we have never placed, do not place and will not place any interests above the interests of honest working people, of the indissoluble fraternity of the Soviet peoples and of lasting, irreversible peace throughout the world.

The working people of our republic, like all Soviet people, actively support the party and government's wise domestic and foreign policy aimed at further strengthening the socialist community and the true relaxation of tension.

The Soviet Union's new peace initiatives and practical steps have been a principled contribution to real detente. In its most profound realism and loyalty to the principles of justice and honesty the CPSU's Leninist foreign policy meets the fundamental interests of all peoples of the world.

At the same time, while rating highly our country's foreign policy successes, we must not forget about the intrigues of world reaction, as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev pointed out in no uncertain terms in his replies to the PRAVDA correspondent's questions.

As you know, the international climate has greatly deteriorated just recently as a result of the efforts of the White House administration and U.S. President Carter. By building up the arms race and attributing aggressive intentions to us, American imperialism, in conjunction with its satellites and the Beijing top leadership, is making every effort to thoroughly complicate the international situation. All around there are lies and slander, direct and indirect pressure, unprecedented blackmail and economic and other sanctions. Our "opponents" are endeavoring to dictate their conditions even in the sphere of sport. It is easy to see that all this pursues a single goal--to intimidate us, to distort the meaning and essence of our international assistance to Afghanistan and to dislodge us from our consistent and principled foreign policy course. It is all in vain. These calculations are doomed to failure, whoever makes them.

No one is going to halt the forward march of history, to deflect us from the correct path of peace, detente, cooperation and mutual understanding among states.

Our paramount task, comrades, is to continue, through tireless, creative labor, to augment the economic and defense might of the beloved motherland and the entire socialist community in the interests of building communism and strengthening peace throughout the world.

Allow me to express the confidence that the Kazakh people and all working people in multinational Soviet Kazakhstan, uniting even more closely around the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, loyal continuer of Lenin's great cause, will do all they can to mark the final year of the 10th 5-Year Plan with new successes and to greet the forthcoming 26th party congress in worthy fashion.

Permit me to cordially thank you once again for the great honor of being your republic Supreme Soviet candidate deputy and to wholeheartedly wish you, dear comrades, new labor successes, sound health and personal happiness.

(Comrade D. A. Kunayev's speech was listened to very closely and was repeatedly interrupted by prolonged, tumultuous applause).

That same day Comrade D. A. Kunayev acquainted himself with new housing development in Bakanas Village and the organization of consumer services. In conversation with members of Balkhashskiy Raykom Bureau, farm leaders and primary party organization secretaries he talked about the need to successfully accomplish the livestock wintering and prepare for the spring sowing and about specific ways of further developing the rayon's economy and culture. He attended the opening of a model kindergarten.

Masherov 7 Feb Speech

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[Text of speech delivered by P. M. Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, at 7 February meeting with voters of Minsk Leninskiy Electoral Okrug]

[Text] Dear comrades!

Dear residents of Minsk!

Every election is an important event in our sociopolitical life. During it, when the organs of state power are formed in a truly democratic atmosphere, Soviet people experience in a particularly impressive manner the sense of being complete masters of their country, of extremely close involvement in its future, problems and concerns, and of lofty civic responsibility for their motherland's future and for insuring its further socioeconomic and spiritual progress. That is why the working people are always so exacting and demanding in selecting those whom they wish to send to the Soviets and those on whom they confer honorable and responsible power on their behalf in order to exercise socialist people's power in accordance with their wishes and interests.

It is a great honor to be given a mandate for such a right. By nominating me once again for the Belorussian Supreme Soviet you have done me that honor for the fourth time. I value immensely and am proud to be given this extremely high trust and would like to express to you, all the voters of the hero-city of Minsk's Leniniskiy Electoral Okrug, deep and heartfelt gratitude.

I am deeply grateful to my agent Vladimir Sergeyevich Romanov and to speakers Leonid Petrovich Lukashevich, Svetlana Dmitriyevna Odinochenko, Nina Vasilyevna Aksenova and Viktor Leonidovich Shalak for their warm and truly kind words. They have deeply touched and moved me.

For all their sincerity, the opinions expressed and the flattering appraisals of myself were somewhat exaggerated. Both my personal qualities and the services I have rendered in general were exaggerated.

The republic's successes and its achievements discussed here are the accumulation above all of the results of the CPSU's fruitful socioeconomic and nationalities policy and of the Soviet people's inviolable friendship and international fraternity, which are reflected by the immense efforts of party and Soviet organs, communists and all the working people of Belorussia, including its capital.

All together--each at his post and in his appointed sector--we are creating a new socialist entity. And for a communist, wherever he works, there is no greater happiness then to participate actively in this grand and inspired creation and no higher duty than to struggle at the limit of knowledge, experience, strength and potential for the triumph of communist ideals and for the successful implementation of the historic 25th CPSU Congress decisions.

The Soviet people will be voting for our party's wise domestic and foreign policy so brilliantly implemented in practice by the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo, headed by that outstanding modern politician and statesman and ardent champion of peace and the people's happiness, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev. The working people of Belorussia, in common with those of the other republics, showed their infinite trust in the party's consistently Leninist course and their deep respect for Leonid Ilich by unanimously naming him as their first candidate deputy and by nominating Politburo members and CPSU Central Committee secretaries as their representatives in our supreme organ of power.

The fact that, as one of the culminating moments of the election campaign, our meeting is being held during the runup to an exceptionally important political event--the 110th anniversary of the birth of that genius of the socialist revolution and greatest of men Vladimir Ilich Lenin, "by whose heart and name," to use the poet's words, "we think, breathe, struggle and live!"--gives it special meaning. And we are immeasurably happy and profoundly grateful that we have been fortunate enough to model our lives after Ilich and to struggle and triumph in his immortal name. Our party and people are filled with patriotic pride, conscious of the fact that their selfless and heroic labor to transform Lenin's brilliant plans into a living reality has been rewarded by the building of a developed socialist society in the vanguard of social progress.

Lenin's fundamental ideas on people's power were given concrete embodiment in the USSR's new fundamental law--the Constitution of the world's first state of the whole people--and in the constitutions of the fraternal Soviet republics adopted on the basis of it. On the eve of the elections the beneficial effect of the mighty creative potential enshrined in it on every sphere of state and public life can be seen particularly clearly.

The present election campaign is also significant in that it was launched in the year of the 35th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War and in the final year of the 10th 5-Year Plan and of direct preparations for the 26th CPSU congress. All this gives it a character all of its own and lasting sociopolitical significance.

The CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum's call to make 1980 a year of shock work and a year of Leninist and communist labor kindled a warm response in the hearts of the republic's workers, kolkhoz members and intelligentsia. This remarkable labor mood makes us confident of success and of the fulfillment without fail of existing plans and pledges. Moreover, the republic has substantial starting points in terms of many economic indicators on which to base its start on solving the complex problems of the final stage of the 5-year plan.

The years since the previous Belorussian Supreme Soviet elections have been marked by fruitful labor by our people, in common with the entire Soviet people, to implement the party's scientifically grounded economic and social policy. Soviet Belorussia has attained a qualitatively new level in the united multinational family.

In the last 5 years the republic has commissioned as much fixed capital as in the sixth, seventh and eighth 5-year plans taken together. In the same time, more than one-third of all capital investment made in the years of Soviet power has been assimilated, and around 60 large industrial enterprises have been built.

Our industry has scaled new heights. This leading sector of the economy is developing at a confident pace. In the first 4 years of the current 5-year plan production increased by 34 percent, against the 30.5 percent envisaged by the plan. Industry has produced R1.8 billions' worth of goods in excess of targets. More than 40 percent of these were produced by the working people of our glorious capital.

There have been considerable qualitative advances in industry, and its structure has continued to improve.

By unfailingly gearing themselves toward making increasing use of the achievements of science and technology, labor collectives have managed to increase the efficiency of social production somewhat. In the last 4 years labor productivity in industry has risen by 24 percent. Almost 1,000 new types of goods have come into production. Production of goods bearing the state seal of quality has tripled.

Minsk's working people are setting a good example in this vital matter. Here the number of enterprises producing top quality grade goods has increased by one-third, and the share of such goods in the production of goods subject to certification has almost doubled and now stands at 62 percent. More than one-half of machine-building goods--and at progressive enterprises like motor vehicle, tractor and refrigerator plants and the S. M. Kirov broaching and cutoff [protyozhnyy i otreznyy] machine tool production association practically all series production--are produced with the state seal of quality.

A great deal has also been done during these years to implement the party's agrarian policy and the course of intensifying agricultural production in every possible way and raising its efficiency. The strengthening of the material and technical base of agriculture, in combination with high labor activeness on the part of kolkhoz members and sovkhoz workers and the improved standard of leadership and management of this sector of our economy, is paying off. During the last 4 years there has been a marked increase in grain, sugar beet, potato, meat, milk and egg production compared with the corresponding period of the Ninth 5-Year Plan.

Last year, despite exceptionally difficult weather conditions, meat, milk, egg, potato, and sugar beet production was up 23, 12, 46, 21 and 29 percent respectively on the 1974 figure. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes had good potato and sugar beet harvests, averaging 186 and 267 quintals per hectare respectively.

Thus, to sum up the work fulfilled--and this has now become a good tradition of our election campaigns--it can be said without any exaggeration that there have been successes, and considerable ones at that.

But however considerable and impressive our achievements may be, complacency and smugness are alien to communists and to all Soviet people. Each new peak of social, economic or spiritual progress is seen by the party as a springboard for achieving still greater heights in communist creation. It was the great Lenin who taught us to adopt such a creative approach to everything we do and gain.

The CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and the speech delivered at it by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, were a vivid example of a truly Leninist style and of a Leninist approach to evaluating the Soviet people's achievements, the problems they face and questions still to be solved. The plenum documents are notable for their deep and all-round analysis of the state of the economy, sharply critical approach to shortcomings, extremely businesslike formulation of the next tasks in our development, and clear and well-argued exposition of ways of overcoming bottlenecks and eliminating shortcomings. The most important thing, which the plenum pointed to in particular, is to concentrate all our efforts on solving the cardinal problem of efficiency and quality.

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We have done and are doing a great deal of work to intensify production, and major efforts are being made to insure both a quantitative increase and a qualitative improvement in the republic's economic complex. But if what has been achieved is assessed from the standpoint of the CPSU Central Committee November plenum demands, it has to be admitted that the results are by no means in conformity with available potential.

Our progress could be much greater and our achievements much more substantial if all questions concerning economic and social development were tackled from the efficiency and quality standpoint, if at every level and in every production collective the struggle to tighten up state, planning and labor discipline were waged more consistently and persistently, and if Bolshevik implacability toward shortcomings and toward those most specifically responsible for them were universally established. This must be made a law of our lives. If we continue in the vein of current practice, we will not be able fully to implement the plenum demands.

There must be a decisive reorganization of the work style, and not just in words but in deeds questions of efficiency and quality must be made the cornerstone of all our work, both administrative and directly executive. Here there are new reserves, new prospects for our economic development and new opportunities for people's spiritual and moral growth and for increasing the people's prosperity.

The 20th Belorussian CP Central Committee Plenum, which determined the tasks and the nature of our practical work to implement the CPSU Central Committee November plenum decisions and the tenets and conclusions expounding in the speech delivered by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, gave specific form to the party's instructions in conformity with conditions prevailing in the republic.

The task is to implement fully the inexhaustible potential and enormous advantages of a developed socialist society, to utilize the republic's impressive economic potential with maximum intensiveness, and to seek and find more and more opportunities for increasing production efficiency and the quality of all work.

In the industrial sphere it is essential to insure that from the very first months of the year every section of industry is working with an efficient rhythm and that the production growth rate for the republic as a whole averages not less than 7 percent, that is, the minimum to guarantee unconditional fulfillment of both the annual and the 5-year plans.

Solving this task requires of every working person, whatever post he occupies, active creative questing for deep-down reserves for production above the plan, and consistent improvement of the quality of that production. Ministries, departments, labor collectives and all working people must gear their efforts toward universally increasing labor productivity, insuring that better use is made of production capital and implementing a very strict thrift policy.

A firm alliance between production and science is the only reliable and sure base on which all our social and economic problems can be solved. Therefore, as was stressed at the 19th and 20th Belorussian CP Central Committee plenums, insuring the speedy implementation of scientific achievements on a broad scale, taking in whole sectors rather than individual enterprises, is becoming a paramount task.

This course wholly and entirely accords with the 25th party congress demands and the principled guidelines expounded in the well-known CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions on improving planning and increasing the economic mechanism's impact on raising production efficiency and work quality. Only in this way can high national economic results be achieved.

In this connection it is particularly important to seek and introduce effective forms of integrating science and production and to insure a speedy switch to the widespread creation of large science-production associations in which science itself and scientific cadres are the dominant force. The party organization, working class and intelligentsia of Minsk, where great scientific potential and the republic's leading scientific workers are concentrated, have a key role to play in the practical solution of this problem. It is to be hoped that the people of Minsk will prove equal to this urgent task.

Reliance on the achievements of science and progressive practice is a reliable key to improving matters in industry, construction and agriculture.

I have already said that on the whole agricultural production in the republic is developing successfully. But the exceptionally difficult weather of recent years, particularly last year's severe drought, seriously hampered the fulfillment of plans and socialist pledges for production and procurement of some agricultural products.

The lessons and results of last year and the conclusions to be drawn from them were examined in detail at the last Belorussian CP Central Committee plenum, and I do not intend to return to them today. At the same time there is our extremely important problem and object lesson taught us by life itself on which I would particularly like to dwell.

Experience shows that we have learned how to work successfully under normal conditions and how to fulfill plan indicators fully and achieve relatively high yields. But when difficulties arise--difficulties of an objective nature--many collectives and many of our cadres surrender their positions and in a number of cases not only fail to fulfill their plans but also reduce the volume of production compared with what was previously achieved. There can be no justification whatever, under any circumstances, for such a situation.

It is well known that our republic is located in a zone of extremely variable weather conditions. This is an inescapable fact. So, to wait passively for a favorable combination of circumstances is pointless and quite intolerable. [paragraph continues]

Consequently, we must learn to work under any conditions, in such a way as to always insure, irrespective of objective difficulties, that plan indicators--the essential and minimum possible level of production--are achieved.

The ample material and technical resources now enjoyed by rural areas and our people's immeasurably increased knowledge and experience enable us to solve this task successfully and to strive for stable harvests even under freak weather conditions. Of course, there have been and there will continue to be certain fluctuations in the yield of agricultural crops, but they should not be as large as they are at present. For instance, in 1976--the best year as for weather--grain crop yields for the republic as a whole averaged 28.1 quintals per hectare, while last year--the hardest year--the average was 15.9 quintals. There should not be such a wide fluctuation. A respectable yield of not less than 25 quintals must be achieved whatever the weather conditions.

It must be realized, however, that in order to achieve such a target we must all work both with great skill and with incomparably higher responsibility. It is clear that the experience and practice which we possess at the present time is insufficient here. It is essential that we reorganize our work and learn to master everything that is new and progressive in agricultural science more rapidly and persistently and on this solid and reliable base undertake new actions and enrich ourselves with new management and administration skill, concentrating our efforts on achieving the set goal.

This demand applies to all kolkhozes and sovkhozes--both to those with yields in line with republic averages and to those producing record harvests under normal conditions. After all, we still have very few farms like Pinskiy Rayon's Osnezhitskiy, Grodnenskiy Rayon's Progress and Minskiy Rayon's Gastello kolkhozes and a few others, which have learned how to produce consistently high and stable yields even under adverse weather conditions.

It is therefore necessary to raise the standard of all our management and all our work. I would remind you that in this final year of the 5-year plan we must achieve not less than 32 quintals of grain crops per hectare and a total grain harvest of 9-9.5 million tons.

These targets are, as you can see, extremely high, but they are perfectly realistic and within our powers. We have the objective prerequisites for fulfilling the pledges adopted. It is a case of working better today than yesterday, of working more enterprisingly and persistently.

The harvest struggle is already underway, in the shape of concern to insure that all kolkhozes and sovkhozes are supplied with good, high-yield seed, collect and cart out to the fields as much good-standard organic fertilizer as possible, complete equipment repairs and train sufficient numbers of machine-operator cadres.

In short, we are faced with a broad work front in every sector of social production. Here a great deal depends on our cadres' administrative, organizational and executive work style and commitment to deep analysis of living reality and of the trends which it engenders, to the timely forestalling of negative phenomena emerging in a particular sphere and to the creative quest for new approaches and new solutions in implementing long-term tasks.

Life demands that each and every one of us work in that key, the key of genuinely Leninist, businesslike work. The CPSU Central Committee November Plenum, which provided a program and defined the fundamental directions for our activity, appealed to us and made it incumbent on us not simply to improve our work and improve particular aspects of administration and management within the framework of traditional, customary practice, but radically to restructure it as a whole and fundamentally, on the basis of the principles and requirements of the party's line on efficiency and quality. Otherwise marking time is inevitable, otherwise--as it is important for all of us to comprehend--substantial progress cannot be counted on.

The successful implementation of all that has been planned and a steady rhythm and innovative approach to work in all spheres of the economy--that is the guarantee of new successes in communist creation. The fatherland's prosperity and the well-being of every person and every family depend on how productively, efficiently and harmoniously our national economy works. The CPSU implements a consistent course of resolving the most important social problems, improving Soviet people's living standards and creating the most favorable conditions for the individual's all-round development. The people's good and happiness have always been and will continue to be the main aim of the Leninist party's revolutionary transforming activity.

In the last 5 years, as a result of the implementation of that policy in our republic, the national income, which is the basis for the satisfaction of the population's material and cultural requirements, has increased 34 percent, and real per capita income has increased 23 percent. The average monthly wage for workers and employees in the national economy has increased 19.3 percent over those years, and kolkhoz members' work payment has increased 37 percent.

There are constant increases in state expenditure on free education, grants, the maintenance of kindergartens and nurseries, medical assistance, the granting of travel warrants for sanatoriums and leisure homes free or at concessionary prices, pensions and allowances and other, similar purposes.

Social consumption funds are becoming an increasingly important source for the satisfaction of our people's growing social needs and a powerful factor for increasing their level of education and spiritual enrichment. In 1975-1979 the republic's population received from these funds various payments and allowances worth nearly $17 billion, or 40 percent more than in the previous 5 years. These payments averaged R386 per person in our republic last year.

Much is being done to improve living conditions for the people of Minsk. During the 10th 5-Year Plan more than 3 million square meters of housing has been constructed here. More than 300,000 residents in the city have celebrated housewarmings, a total of 28 general educational schools and 52 children's preschool institutions have come into operation. The network of stores, hospitals and clinics, movie theaters and vocational and technical schools has been expanded considerably. With every passing year Minsk is growing, and improving its amenities and acquiring increasing architectural and artistic individuality and expressiveness. The layout of housing estates is becoming more attractive and varied.

It is planned to begin construction of a number of special-purpose buildings for social purposes in the next few years, in particular a republican culture center, a branch of the V. I. Lenin Central Museum, and the Ya. Kupala Theater. A musical comedy theater and a new airport are being constructed. The construction of the Planeta hotel is being completed. All this will enrich and embellish the face of our capital.

The subway, whose commissioning will make it possible to resolve the problems of city passenger transport effectively, is being constructed successfully. The 1,500-strong collective working on it is young but has made a confident start. It is faced with the task of completing the basic work on the first stage of the subway in 1983, that is, a year earlier than planned.

At the same time the potential which the city possesses for radically improving construction, planning, the provision of public services and amenities and municipal and consumer services is not being fully exploited. Residents in a number of rayons rightly complain of unsatisfactory supplies of heat, water and liquid gas and shortcomings in the work of passenger transport and in the maintenance and management of open spaces.

City construction organizations permit many defects. Nearly one in two of them fails to fulfill established targets for volume of work, growth of labor productivity and the commissioning of capacities and projects. As a result, since the start of the 5-year plan about R18 million in capital investments for the development of the social sphere and for housing, municipal cultural and consumer construction in the city has not been assimilated. Despite having real potential for completely fulfilling the capital construction target last year, construction workers failed to insure the commissioning of 32,000 square meters of housing and of a number of production and social projects. The dispersal of capital investments over a large number of construction sites continues. In the last 3 years alone the number of construction sites has increased 50 percent. As a result, normative construction schedules are being broken, resources are frozen and many of the population's aspirations and expectations, on which they had every right to count, remain unsatisfied. Of course, this kind of work must not continue. The gorispolkom was severely criticized at the recent Belorussian CP Central Committee plenum for these and other serious omissions in resolving urgent questions in the life of a city with a population of 1.3 million and for a management style unsuited to a complex city economy. After that, as you know, measures were adopted to strengthen its leadership. [paragraph continues]

We hope that Minsk's party, soviet and economic organs will do everything possible to insure that our capital becomes a model city in every respect and an example of the active and purposeful resolution of problems on which the working people's working frame of mind and social sentiments depend.

And there are a good many such problems both in the city and in the republic as a whole. Take, for instance, the question of interruptions which sometimes take place in the supply of certain industrial goods and foodstuffs to the population, which was discussed in a very principled manner at the CPSU Central Committee November Plenum.

What does analysis of the situation in this sphere show?

It should be stressed that in our republic the volume of consumer goods production is increasing steadily. Since the start of the 5-year plan alone their output has increased 26 percent in the republic, as against a target of 25.2 percent. Retail trade turnover is constantly growing on this basis. For instance, last year the sale to the population of meat and dairy products increased 62 percent compared with 1970, the sale of eggs more than trebled, that of clothing and underwear increased 74 percent, leather shoes--79 percent, and furniture--89 percent. The sale of carpets and carpet products increased 150 percent, that of glassware, china and earthenware increased 170 percent and the sale of automobiles increased 12-fold.

In recent years major efforts have been made in the republic in the production of silk textiles, knitted goods, furniture and various household goods. Our industry has begun to produce color television sets, twin-compartment refrigerators, well-made bicycles, automatic cameras and other technically complex articles and this has made it possible better to satisfy the growing demand for consumer durables.

At the same time a certain gulf between the production of and the demand for consumer goods has still not been bridged. Demands with respect to quality and range are clearly outstripping what our industry can offer. It is not always possible to obtain even some simple items in the stores. Shortages often arise, now of this article, now of that.

This means that the planning of consumer goods production needs to be substantially improved. It must be more flexible and react rapidly to changes in consumer requirements and tastes. It is also necessary to completely eradicate the practice whereby because of short-term considerations, the output of many necessary articles in mass demand is reduced or their production is stopped altogether.

On the other hand, trade must improve the study of demand and must significantly step up its influence on the formation of the production program for sectors and enterprises producing articles for the population. In other words, trade orders must predetermine the volume and range of articles incorporated in the production plan--articles which the consumer really needs and which will not simply take up shelf space in stores.

I wish to stress that this work must not be done on an episodic basis, but must be carried out daily. Demand for innovations and for good quality products following fashion will increase every year. The successful assimilation of the production of new types of excellent-quality products depends to a large extent on a well-considered approach by workers in industry and trade to the resolution of many generally difficult questions associated with producing the necessary goods and supplying them to the population.

These questions were examined in detail at the 20th Belorussian CP Central Committee Plenum, held last December. We believe--and I would like to stress this again--that the active quest for reserves for increasing the production and improving the quality of consumer goods must take a central place in the work of party, state and economic organs. Here it is particularly important to make full use of the potential and initiative of the soviets and their deputies' commissions, both to insure the wide involvement of local resources in increasing the supply of goods the people need, and to improve the organization of trade.

Labor collectives in the city of Minsk, where one-fourth of all the consumer goods made in the republic are produced, have considerable potential in this respect. This applies not only to specialized plants and factories, but also to enterprises in machine building, instrument making and other sectors of heavy industry. Having a solid production and technical base and skilled cadres, they can and must make an immeasurably more substantial contribution to satisfying requirements for various consumer and household goods, and not confine themselves, as still often happens, to the production of occasional articles.

In the republic, as in the country as a whole, concrete measures have been elaborated and are being implemented with a view to improving the supply of industrial goods to the population and stepping up exactingness toward ministries, departments, organizations and services responsible for the necessary order in that sphere.

Unfortunately, not infrequently a shortage of particular articles arises as a result of all kinds of ridiculous rumors and is created artificially. That happened, for instance, with bed linen, whose sales increased between 13 and 40 percent for different types in 1979 as compared with the previous year. At the same time these articles, which had always been in plentiful supply, suddenly became short. Clearly there was no objective reason for the shortage here. The same can be said of a number of other goods. In this connection I would like to stress that our raw materials resources and production capacities for the production of articles are by no means unlimited. They are calculated for a normal volume and optimum increase in consumption, not for building up stocks. Everyone must comprehend this.

In letters to the Belorussian CP Central Committee certain comrades voice concern at shortcomings in the supply of livestock products to the population of the cities. This is sometimes done highly emotionally and is accompanied by hasty assessments and conclusions. There is indeed a problem here, but we would like to count on a correct understanding of it.

As I have already said, our agriculture is not at a standstill. It is growing from year to year. Output of livestock products is also growing. But the population of the cities is growing even more rapidly. For instance, in the 10th 5-Year Plan yearly meat production on all categories of farms has increased 8 percent, while the urban population has increased 12 percent.

The situation was exacerbated by the consequences of last year's drought, when the possibility was threatened of an almost complete absence of livestock products for sale to the population. We did not permit that to happen. At the cost of incredible efforts, about which the city dwellers who took part in fodder procurement know very well, we were able to considerably reduce the pernicious consequence of the bad weather. The will, energy and level of organization which the republic's working people counterposed to the weather permitted us to emerge from a very complex situation with the smallest possible losses. It is true that we did not become any richer, but we did the main thing--cattle numbers were maintained. So the base for the further development of stockraising and for increasing food products for the population was not undermined. Even with the difficult circumstances which arose, in 1979 as a whole the urban population was sold as much meat and dairy produce as in the previous year, and even a little more in Minsk.

However, the acuteness of the problem has not been fully eliminated. Only someone who was not aware of what happened could grumble today about interruptions which occur in the sausage and butter trade.

As I have already said, at the resent Belorussian CP Central Committee plenum the lessons of last year--a difficult year--were analyzed in detail and the necessary conclusions were drawn for our future activity in the sphere of increasing the efficiency of the agricultural sector of the republic's economy.

At present, in the conditions of the wintering of livestock, intensive work to eliminate the consequences of the drought is continuing on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. A struggle is in progress for the efficient utilization of fodder, insuring increased productivity of animals and increasing milk and meat production.

We regard it as our main task to work actively in the direction of strengthening the ability of cropgrowing and stockraising to withstand extreme conditions. We will work on this staunchly and persistently.

The progress of affairs in the economy and in resolving social questions depends to a decisive extent on our people's ability and desire to work efficiently and in a well organized way, to full capacity. We can count on such work. Striking shifts have taken place in the Soviet person's spiritual and moral nature. In whatever sphere of public life--such as material production, culture, education or science--highly skilled people are working everywhere today who really care about their task and possess profound, all-round erudition and genuinely statesmanlike way of thinking.

The behavior of those who violate the principles of our labor morality, who work at half-strength and try to get more from society than they put into it is particularly intolerable against this remarkable background. While profiting to the full from the benefits of socialism, they would like to release themselves from any duties toward public interests.

The republic's national economy is considerably damaged by wastage of working time. Last year more than 1.5 million man-days were lost in industry and construction as a result of absenteeism. The utilization of this reserve would mean the production of additional industrial output worth R111.2 million and the fulfillment of a volume of construction and installation work worth R19.8 million.

Soviet society, which sets itself the goal of transforming labor into the first vital need, cannot reconcile itself to violators of labor discipline, idlers and shirkers, not only because they complicate the resolution of economic tasks and damage production. Nothing is so damaging to the individual and his dignity as the lack of the work habit and the lack of the desire and the wish to find moral satisfaction in good work done conscientiously.

That is why all honest working people received with tremendous satisfaction the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers and AUCCTU resolution "On Further Strengthening Labor Discipline and Reducing Cadre Turnover in the National Economy." In present conditions, as the scale of production increases, economic ties become more complex and scientific and technical progress accelerates, so the significance of the highly productive utilization of every hour, every minute of working time and the strict observance of internal regulations is increasing. Lenin's thesis on the direct connection between successes in socialist creation and "iron discipline at work," whose observance he described as the hub of economic building, has a particularly topical ring today.

This demands high awareness and a more exacting attitude to ourselves and to the quality of our work from each and every one of us. Individual responsibility for maintaining the strictest discipline rests with economic leaders, who must create all the necessary conditions for fruitful work by labor collectives. Negligence, last-minute rushes and miscalculations in work planning and norm-setting eat into the production organism like rust and have a corrupting influence on people. It is rightly said that disorder stupefies people while order has a sobering effect. The more order there is, the more orderliness there will be. We must proceed on this assumption in establishing everywhere an atmosphere of really shock, intensive, creative labor and communist-style, Lenin-style work.

A really militant level of organization, concentration and full mobilization of our material potential and spiritual resources are required today not only by the interests of accelerating economic growth, but also by the international situation, which has become notably more complex recently.

We have witnessed how the relaxation of tension proved not to the liking of imperialist and other reactionary forces. The turn deliberately carried out by J. Carter's administration from cooperation to confrontation with the Soviet Union, Washington's leaning toward whipping up the arms race, the postponement of the ratification of the SALT II treaty, shameless anti-Sovietism and flagrant blackmail--these and other steps by the U.S. ruling circles are fraught with serious potential danger and step up international tension.

The repressive measures borrowed from the "cold war" arsenals which American imperialism is trying to impose have fully exposed its hypocrisy and perfidy, its reactionary face and aggressive nature.

The absurd, hegemonist U.S. course is built on shaky, groundless arguments. It began long before the present events in Afghanistan--a fact which, incidentally, is not much disseminated by bourgeois propaganda. "Had it not been for Afghanistan," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stressed in his answers to a PRAVDA correspondent's questions, "certain U.S. and NATO circles would doubtless have found another pretext to exacerbate the world situation." The essence of the matter is that plans for turning that country into an anti-Soviet military bridgehead and a strongpoint for the aggressive U.S. policy in the Middle East have failed.

The present transatlantic politicians' militarist fever and their arrogant claims to the role of world gendarme indicate yet again the aggressive nature of imperialism. Our people should not entertain the least complacency or illusions concerning it, but should preserve their class sensitivity and high political vigilance everywhere and at all times.

The fact that the imperialist bourgeoisie is rushing about, bearing ill will and embarking on all kinds of adventures is not going to intimidate the Soviet people. It is a sign not of imperialism's strength but of its weakness. A reflection of its displeasure with the consolidation of the positions of socialism, which is marching victoriously across the globe.

The ideas of Marxism-Leninism have taken profound possession of the awareness of millions of working people and become for them a reliable guide in the struggle for the social renewal of life. We members of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation which has just come back from Socialist Vietnam felt with all our hearts the inspiring, irrepressible march of the just cause which began with Great October. Our admiration was aroused by the Vietnamese people's remarkable victories in the revolutionary and national liberation struggle and their successes in implementing socialist transformations, strengthening the country's defense capability and defending its independence and freedom against outside encroachments. The Vietnamese working people are resolutely rebuffing the Beijing expansionists, who are trying to retard the process of socialist building and hinder Vietnam's implementation of an internationalist course of all-round consolidation of combat solidarity with Laos and Kampuchea and further strengthening of friendship with the Soviet Union.

The days we spent in the heroic land of Vietnam produced an ineradicable impression on us. The meetings with Vietnamese friends, which invariably passed in an atmosphere of cordiality and sincerity, reasserted our complete identity of views on many questions--a reflection of the crystal purity of the friendship which inextricably links our parties and peoples.

The Soviet delegation took part in the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the glorious Vietnam Communist Party, [VCP]. We heard with tremendous interest the profound and pithy report by Comrade Le Duan, general secretary of the VCP Central Committee, which comprehensively summarized the VCP's rich experience of activity, gave a profound analysis of Vietnam's domestic and international situation and clearly outlined the prospects for the development of Vietnamese society along the socialist path. Our visit there also coincided with another noteworthy date--the 30th anniversary of Vietnam's establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

We had extremely warm, friendly talks with Vietnamese leading figures and visited enterprises and educational institutions in Hanoi, (Binchitkhiyen) Province, which is twinned with Soviet Belorussia, and Ho Chi Minh City. All this made it possible for us to become more closely acquainted with the Vietnamese people's purposeful and staunch, courageous character and to experience manifestations of their sincere feelings of love and profound respect for Soviet people and our Leninist party. In this cohesion of the will and heart, in the peoples' indestructible unity and friendship, lies our irresistible strength for progress toward the bright ideals of communism.

Past experience and the realities of our time indicate that any attempts to talk the language of threats and diktat to the Soviet Union and the socialist community states are hopeless and will inevitably rebound on those who forget the lessons of history and again attempt to sow the wind. Soviet people, led by Lenin's party, look to the future with confidence and optimism and defend the cause of peace and the peoples' security firmly and consistently.

The Belorussian working people wholeheartedly approve and warmly support the CPSU's peace-loving foreign policy course and are striving by shock labor to strengthen our socialist fatherland's economic and defense might and enhance its international prestige.

The forthcoming elections to the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet and local soviets will undoubtedly be a further shining confirmation of Soviet people's unswerving cohesion around the CPSU and their readiness to fight and win under its tried and tested leadership along the path indicated by our brilliant leader and teacher Vladimir Ilich Lenin.

In conclusion, permit me once again sincerely to thank you and all voters in the okrug for the lofty trust you have placed in me and to assure you that I will continue to devote my knowledge, experience and energy--the best that is in me--to the service of the people and the party and the struggle for the triumph of communist ideals.

Wishing you good health, happiness and prosperity, dear friends, and remarkable new achievements for the sake of the motherland, for the sake of communism.

(Comrade P. M. Masherov's speech was listened to with great attention and was repeatedly interrupted by applause.)

The previous day P. M. Masherov met with voters--workers, engineers, technicians and office workers--at the Minsk Oktyabrskaya Revolyutsiya machine-tool building production association.